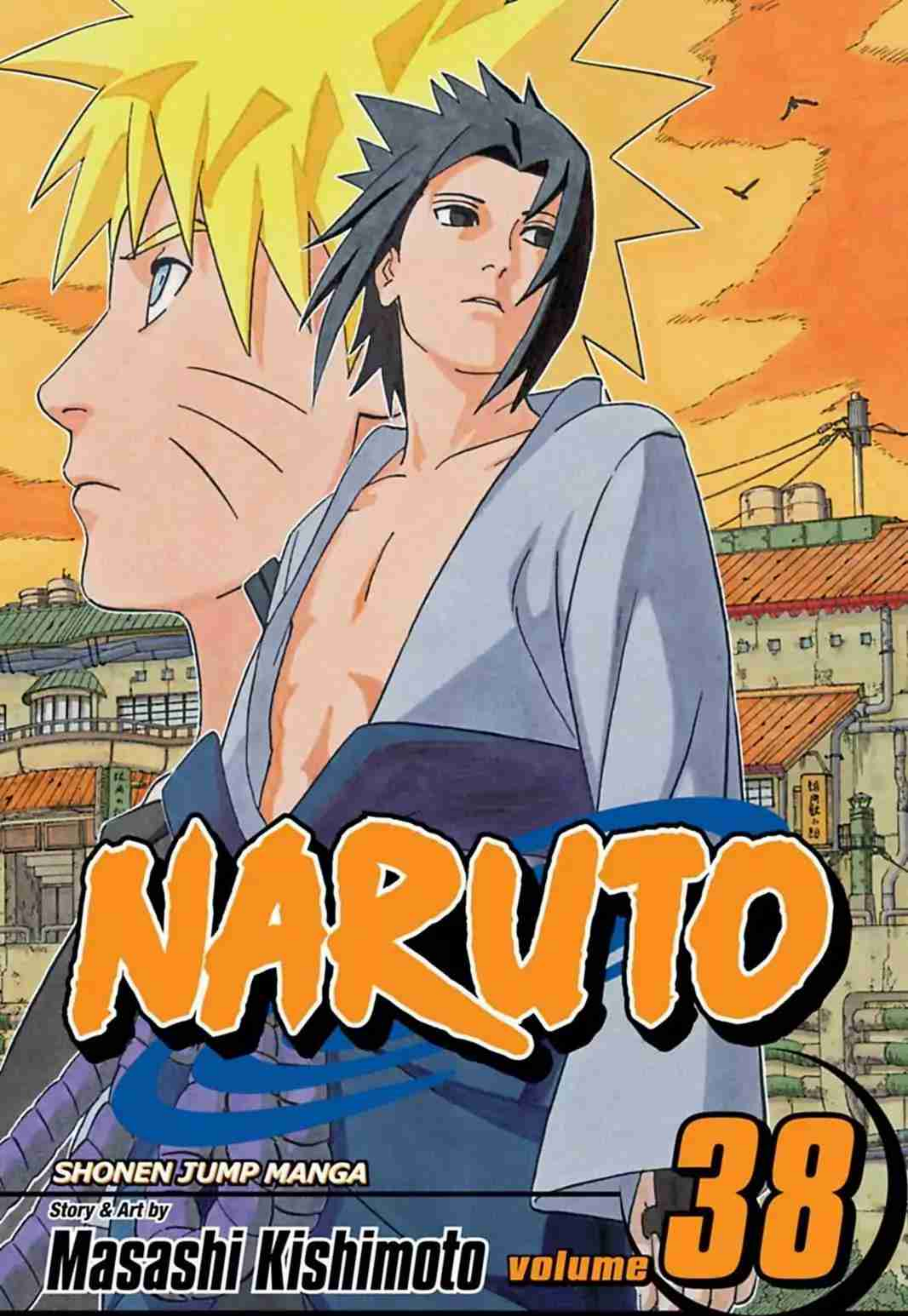
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 38

岸本斉史

Many of my friends are getting married lately. It's too bad I'm too busy to attend their weddings... I do so enjoy receptions.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2007

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 38
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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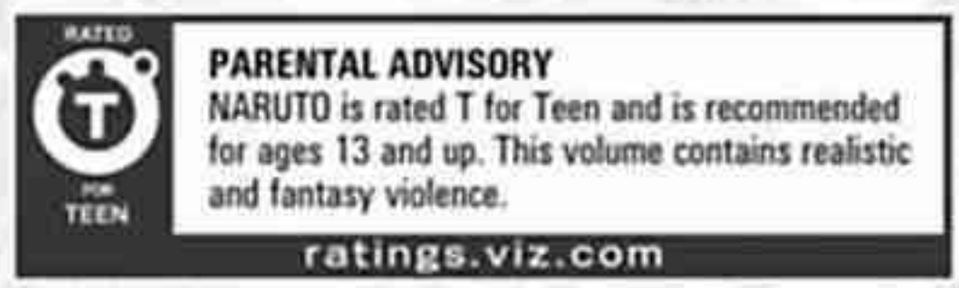
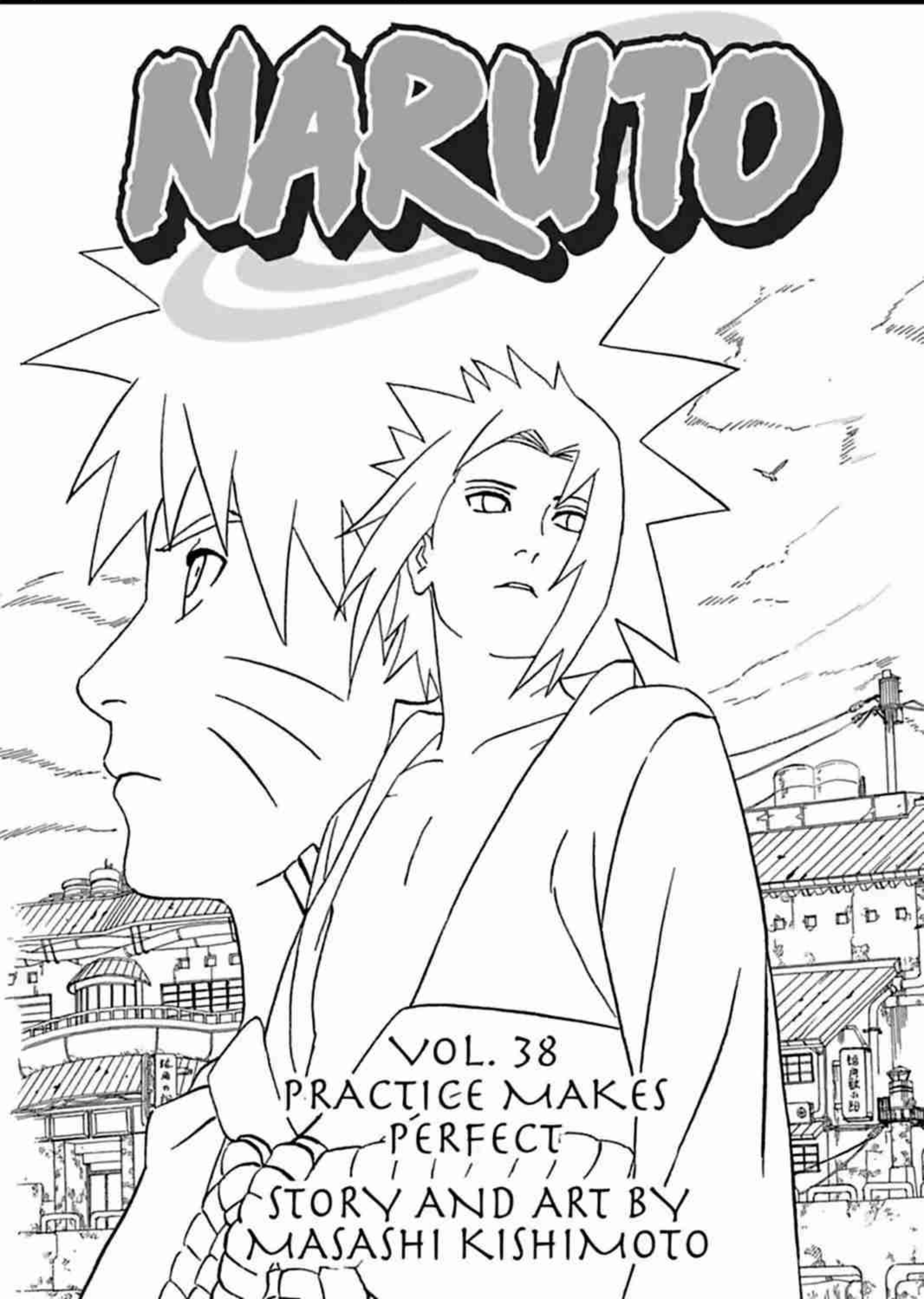


SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 38
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sakura
サクラ

Naruto
ナルト

The Story So Far...

Naruto was once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy. Nevertheless, alongside his friends Sasuke and Sakura, he successfully joins the ranks of the ninja.

During the Chûnin Journeyman Ninja Selection Exam, Orochimaru launches *Operation Destroy Konoha.* Lord Hokage sacrifices his life to halt the attack; in the aftermath, Tsunade steps up to become the Fifth Hokage. Meanwhile, charmed by the power of Orochimaru, Sasuke defeats Naruto and departs Konoha; struggle as he will, Naruto can do nothing to stop him.

More than two years pass. Naruto and his friends undergo rigorous training. Yet when they finally catch up with Sasuke, his power overwhelms them.

Determined to best Sasuke, Naruto returns for another round of intense training. Meanwhile, Shikamaru and the others violently clash with the Akatsuki group. Though the scene looks grim, Naruto arrives just in time to deliver his lethal attack…

NARUTO

VOL. 38
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

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ZOO

WIND STYLE! RASEN-SHURI-KEN!

HERE WE GO!

ASH

Number 340: The Perilous Bridge

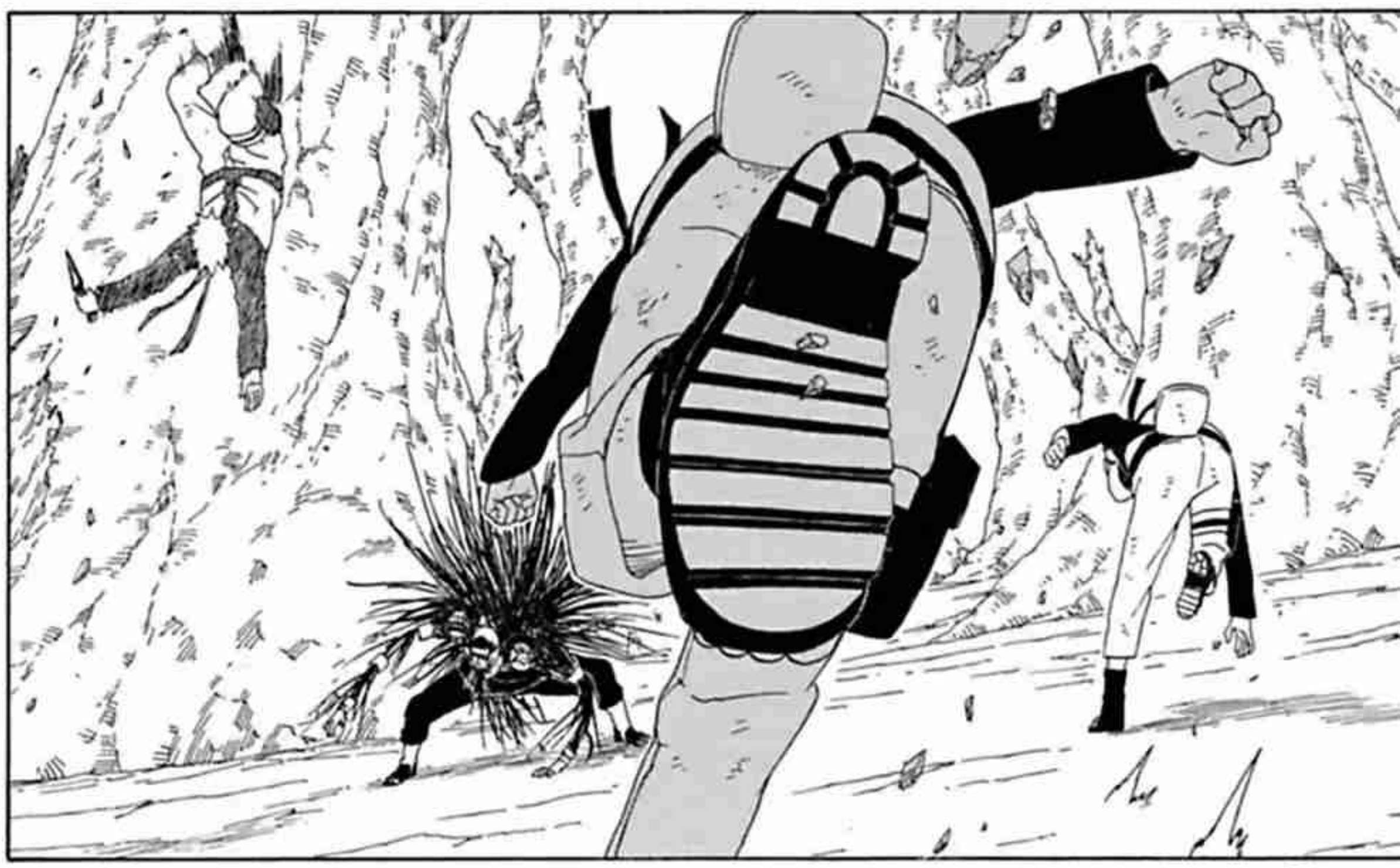
SKF

!
YOU'LL JUST GET CAUGHT UP IN IT!
NO! STEER CLEAR OF NARUTO!

I'M COMIN' IN!

SO THIS IS THE POWER OF THE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI.
THE JUTSU CERTAINLY BEFITS THE BEAST.

...



ZW
OOO
SKEE
SH
AK
WOW

PFOF

SHREE

FOOM

FOFF

!!

BWUP...

RAAGH!

UNH...

ASSAULT

NO, IT FELL SHORT ...
...

HM?

HUH ...?
DID HE WIN?

RIGHT!

ALWAYS A BUNDLE OF SURPRISES, THAT BOY... ALL RIGHT.
YAMATO!
FWOO

SKRUUNK

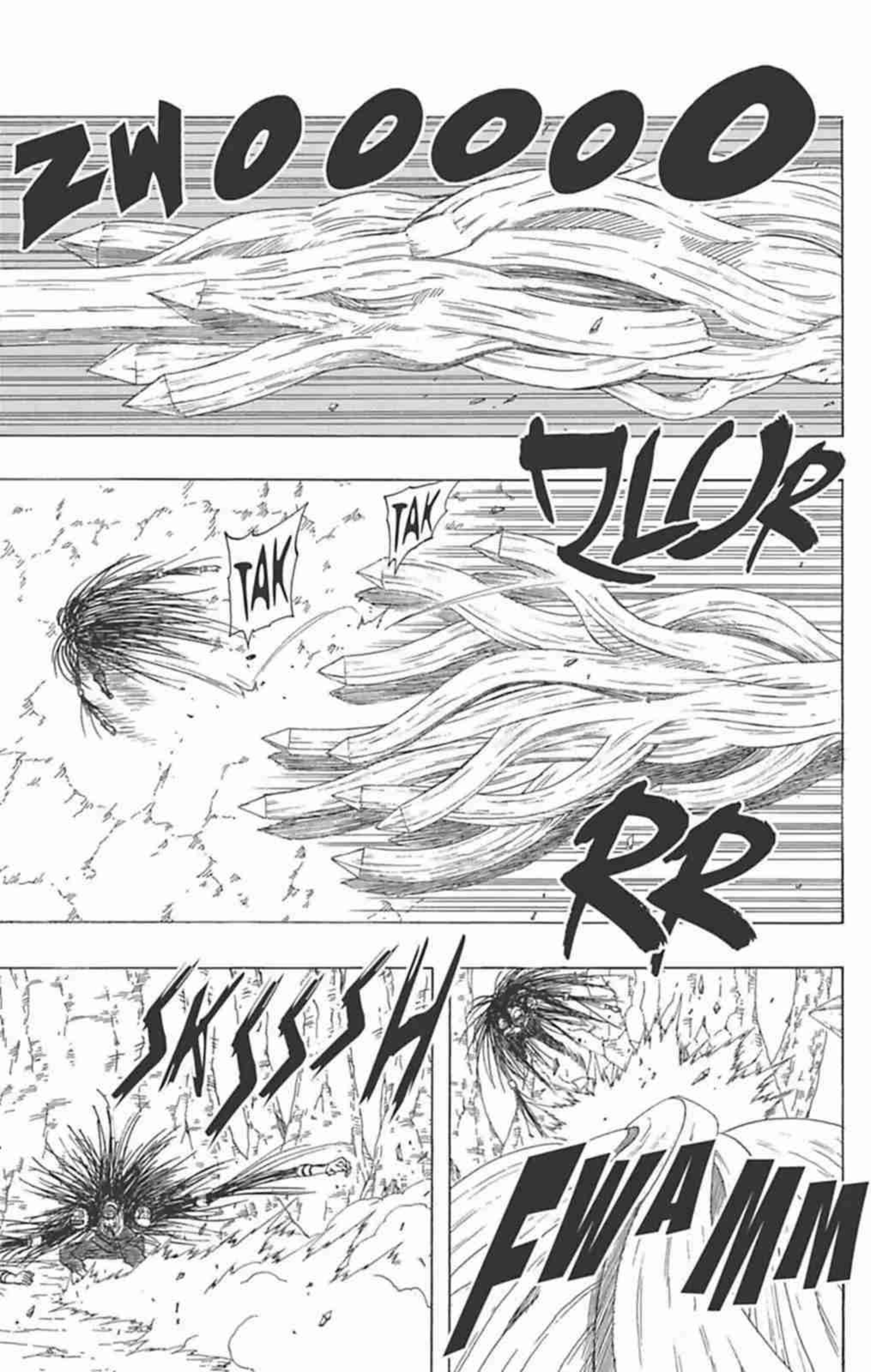
YEEG!

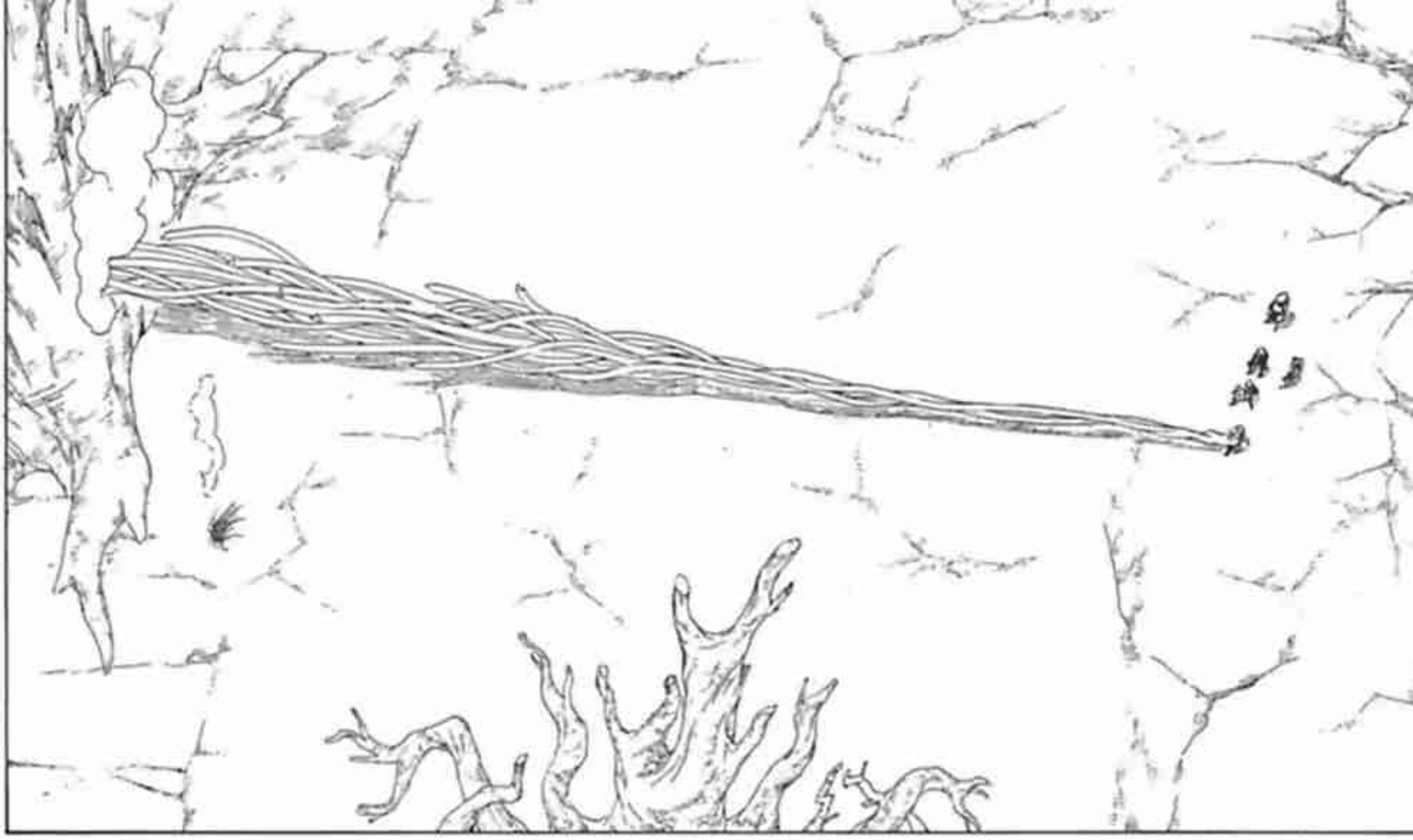
!

YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME.

SHRIK

CH IT


ZWOOOOOO
TAK
TAK
SKSSSH
FWAMM



YOU'RE STILL THE SAME OLD NARUTO AFTER ALL.
YOU SEEMED DIFFERENT, NARUTO. BUT I GUESS...

...
OH MAN!!

HMM ...

HEY! IT'S AWESOME WHEN IT HITS, OKAY?!

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO RUN UP AND SMACK HIM HEAD-ON?
WHEN YOU SAID RASEN-SHURIKEN, I FIGURED YOU'D BOOM-ERANG IT.

...

THUS THE NEED FOR A DIVERSION. THUS ALL THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS.
YEAH, THE NAME IS MISLEADING. RASEN-SHURIKEN ONLY REALLY WORKS AS A MELEE ATTACK.
ZWOOP

NOT THIS GUY...
THEN WE'RE STUCK. WE CAN'T HIT HIM THAT FAST.

THIS NEW JUTSU BURNS TOO QUICKLY.
IT LASTS ONLY A FEW SECONDS.

SFF

SO, AVOID CLOSE COMBAT AND KEEP MY EYE ON THE REAL BODY. OKAY, SIMPLE ENOUGH.
LOOKS LIKE HIS JUTSU IS USELESS... SO LONG AS I KEEP MY DISTANCE.

LEMME TRY THIS AGAIN.

HMM ... WHAT NOW?

WE DON'T NEED TO CROSS SHAKY BRIDGES.
THAT'S TRUE...
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE FIVE AGAINST ONE.

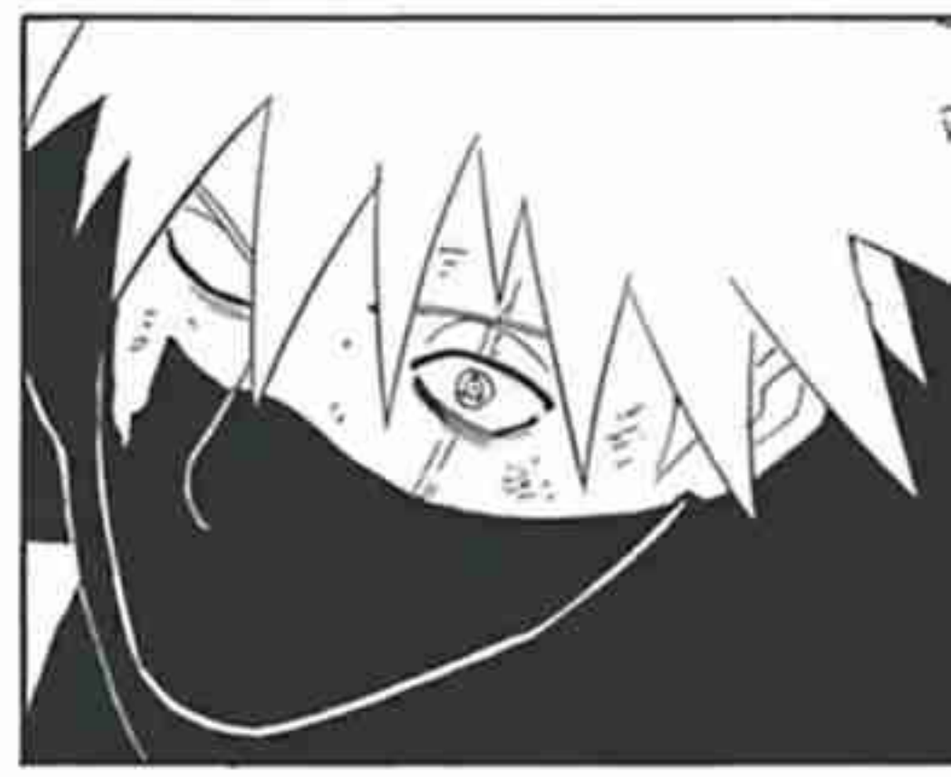
MASTER KAKASHI.
?

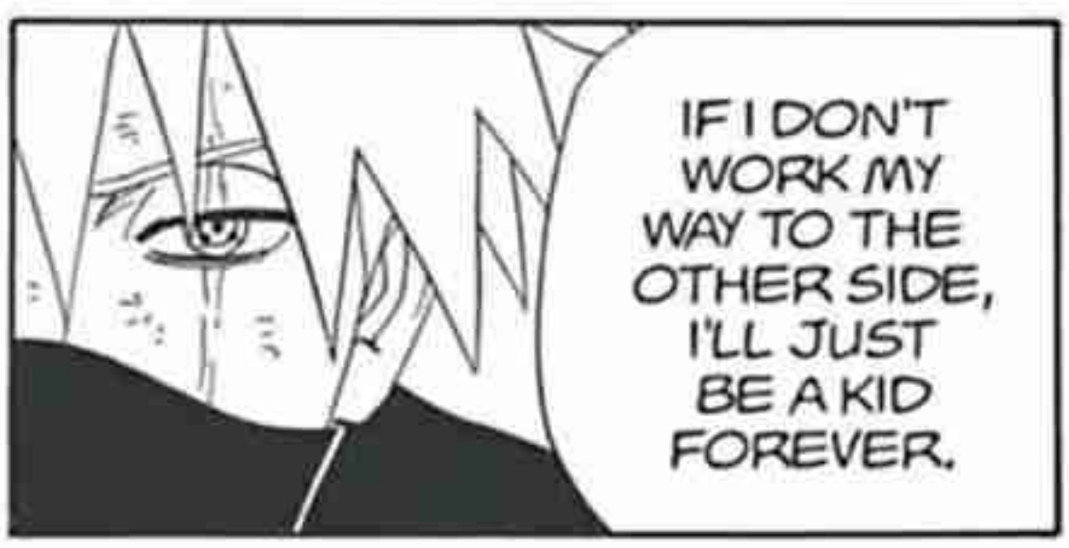
?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME DURING TRAINING?

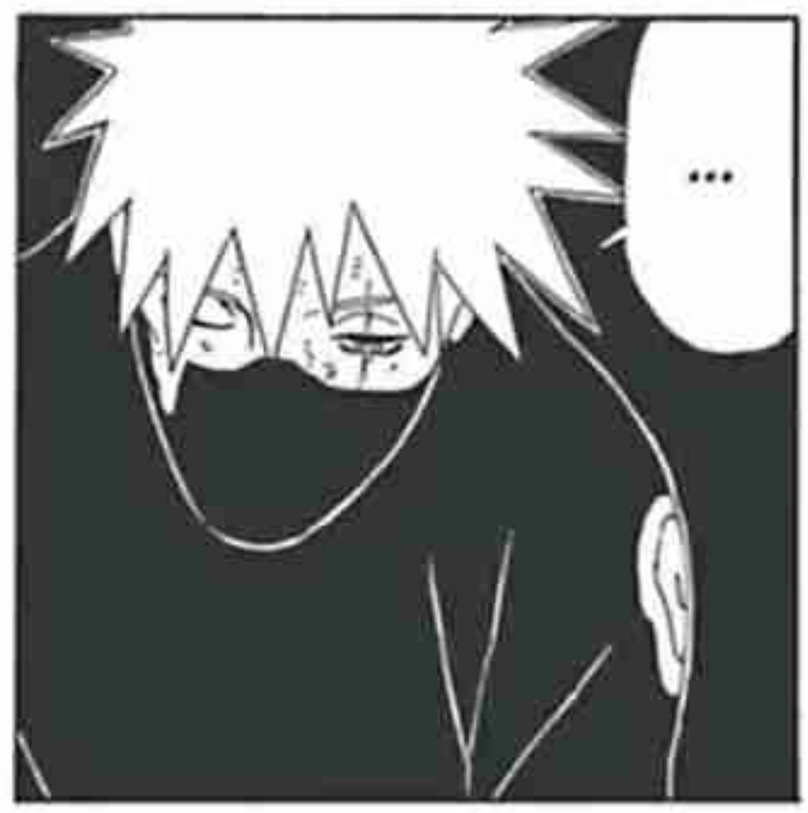
YOU SAID I'M THE ONLY SHINOBI WHO WILL SURPASS THE FOURTH HOKAGE.

AND YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID.

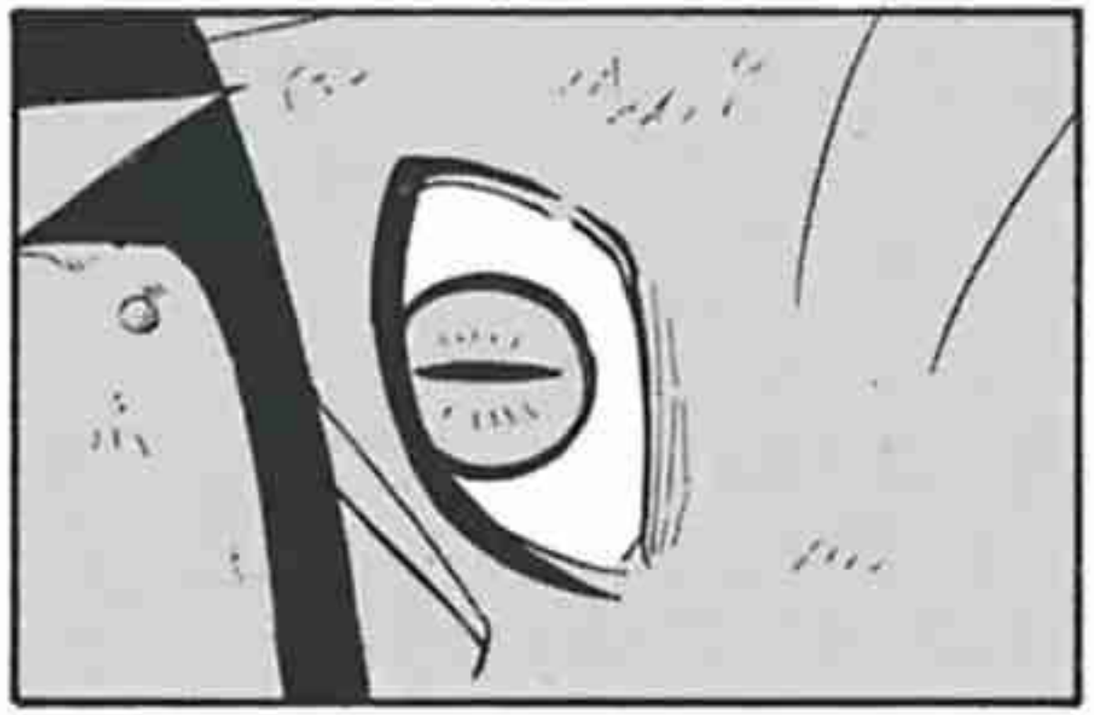




DON'T TAKE AWAY MY CHANCE TO PROVE WHAT I CAN DO!



Number 341: Practice Makes Perfect...!!



ALL RIGHT!

GO ON, NARUTO.

SWOOF
URG...

I'D BETTER SHIFT TO A LONG-RANGE STYLE...
...

SPLOOF

SPLAT

WOW...
...

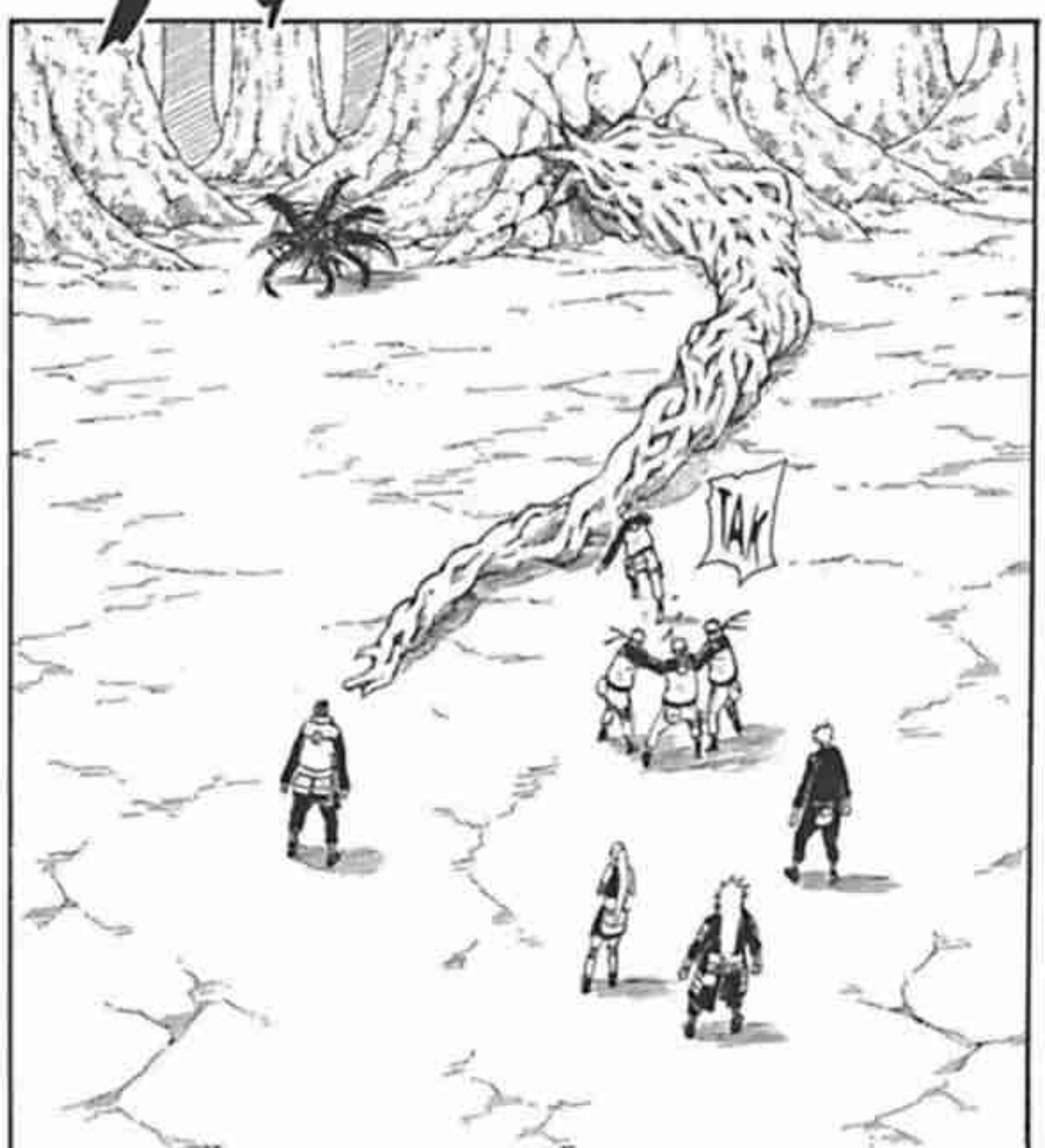
HE DIDN'T JUST TRANS-FORM... THAT'S A LOT OF CHAKRA.

HE'S PRE-PARING FOR NARUTO'S JUTSU.

FWU
KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER !!

THUNKUN

OONG



FOL-LOW ME!

FIG

OKAY, NOW!

TAK

SHK

ZOOSS

SH

WHAT A JUMP!

FLUSH!

!

AIM FOR THE HEAD, AND THE REST COMES DOWN.

IGNORE THE DOPPEL-GANGERS. THEY'RE JUST A DISTRAC-TION.

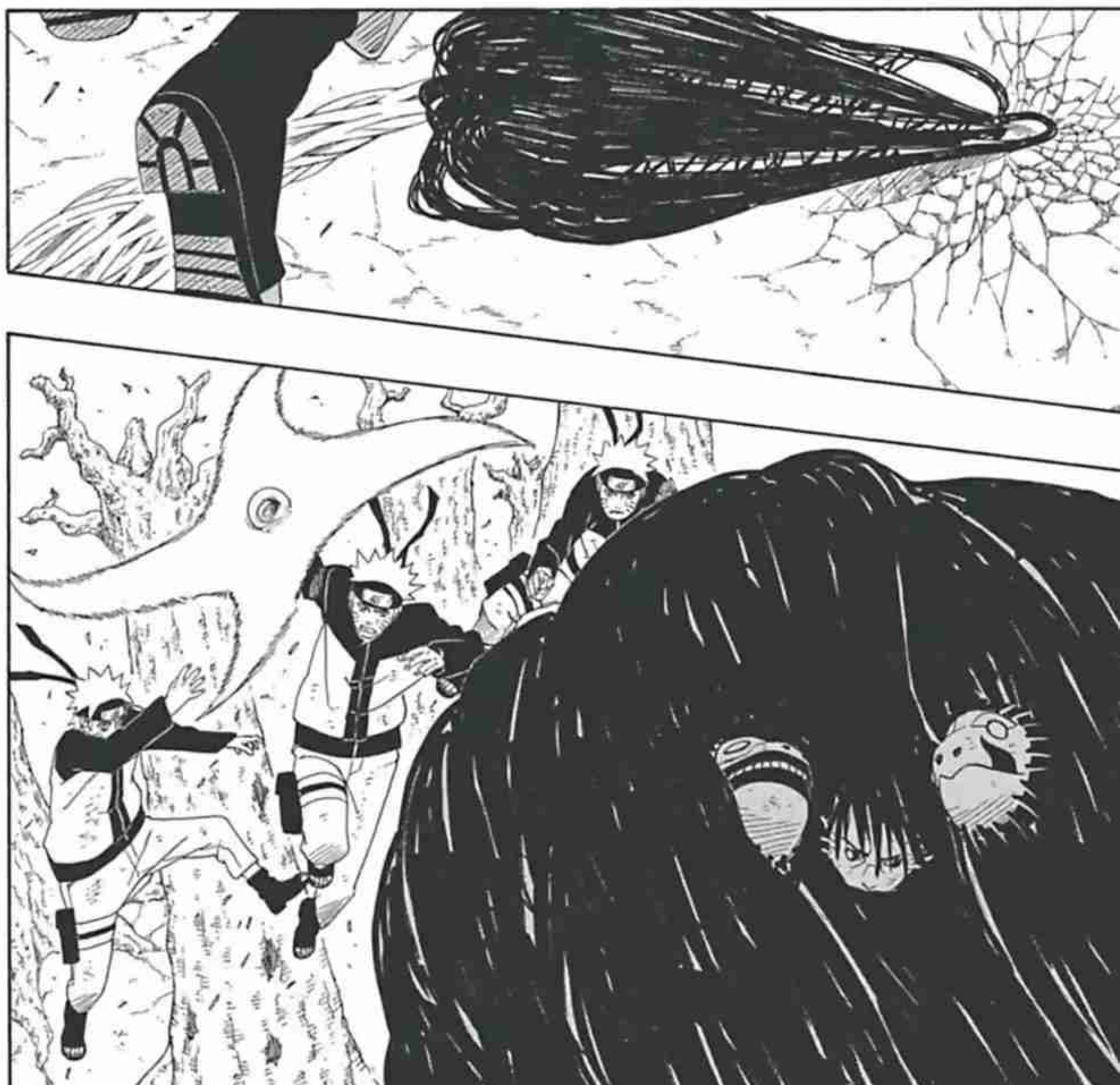
ONCE I DIFFUSE HIS JUTSU, I'M HOME FREE.

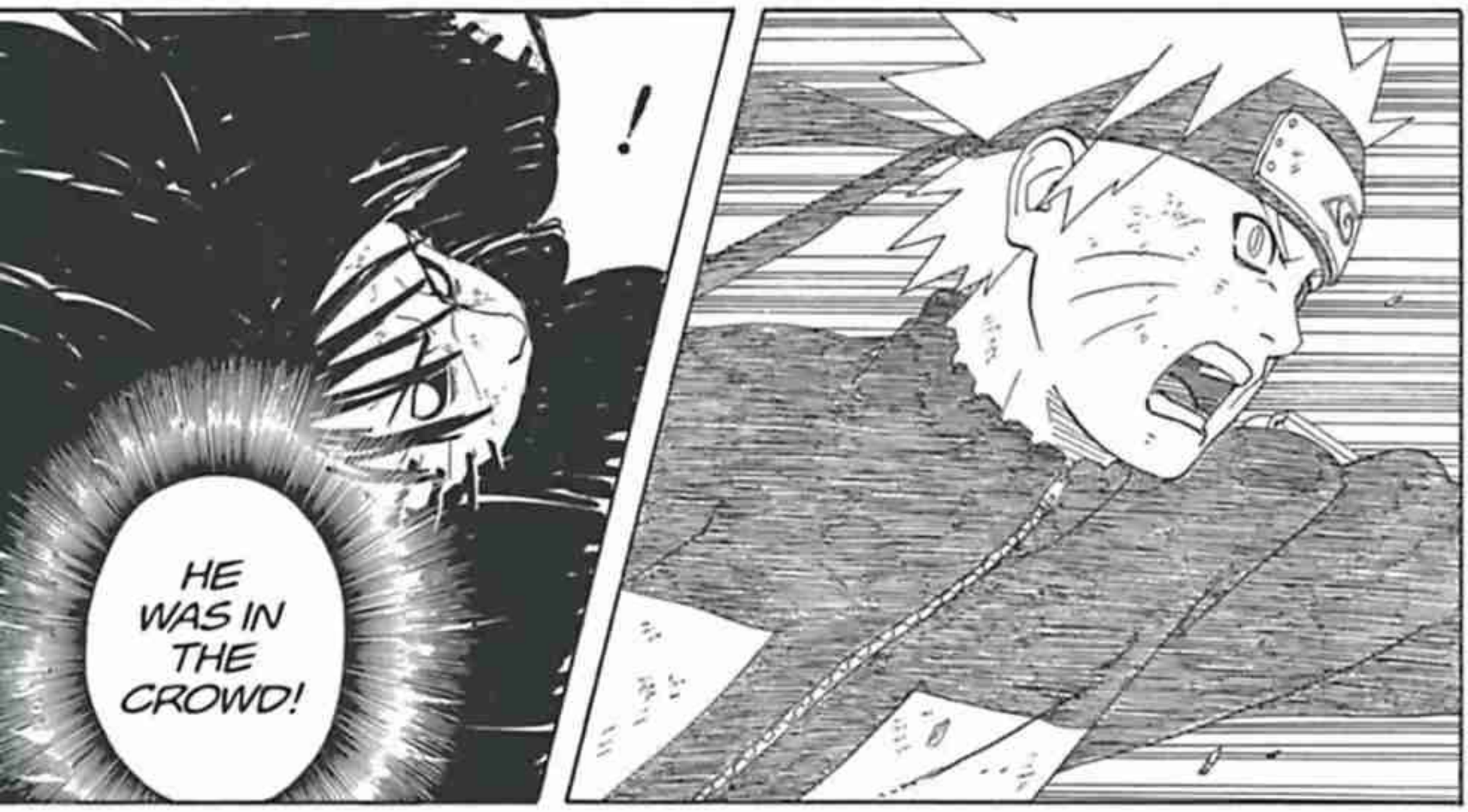
HE'S READY, JUST LIKE I SAID!

KO

JUST A DOPPEL-GANGER?
WHAT?

POFF




!
HE WAS IN THE CROWD!

GOTCHA!

ZOZ

PAKOOSH
URGH.
WWEE
EE

RUMMMMBLE

GGRRR

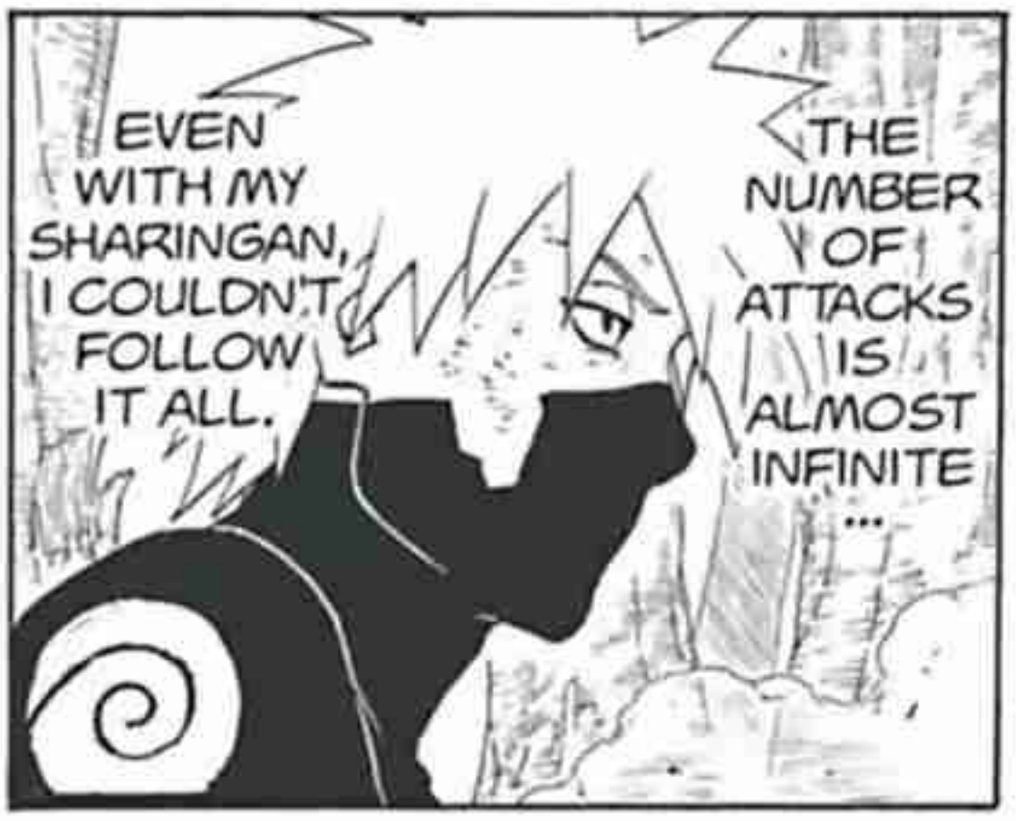
ACK!

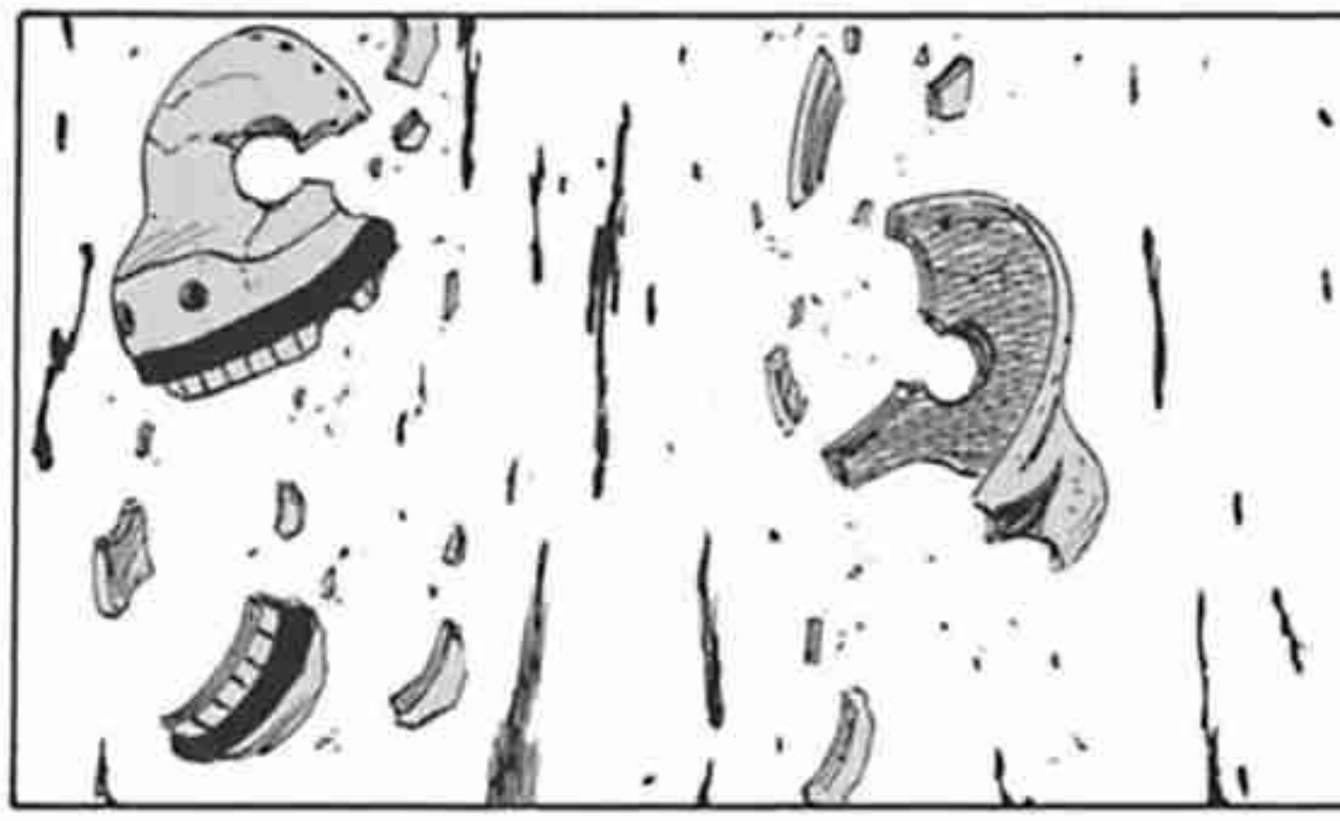
KAMI

FWAP

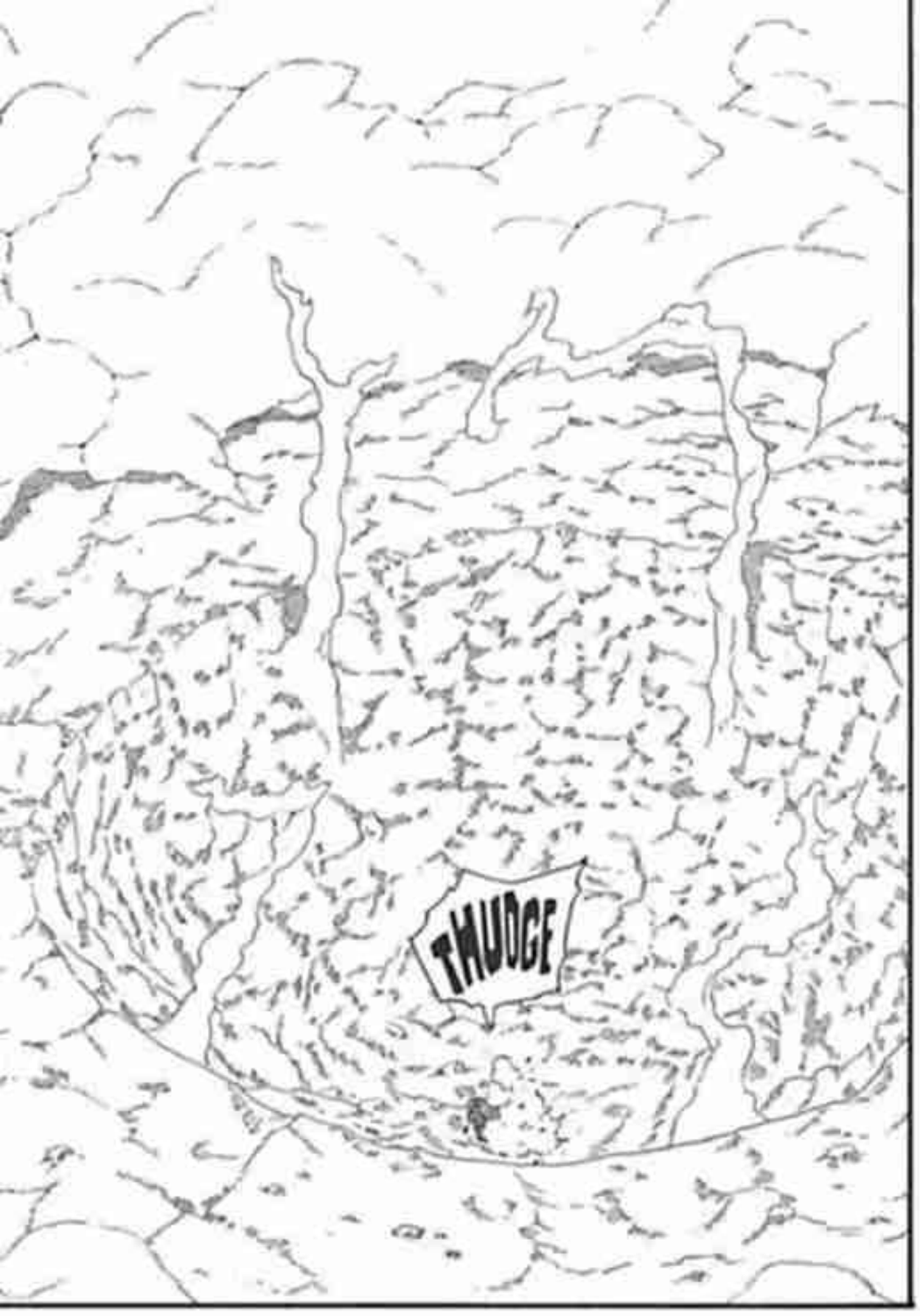
READ THIS WAY
ドガ
ドガ
ドガ
NGAAAH!!

KRIKKAK


EVEN WITH MY SHARINGAN, I COULDN'T FOLLOW IT ALL.
THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS IS ALMOST INFINITE ...



MAGNIFI-
CENT
JUTSU...


THUDGE

I DID IT...
HEH. SWEET.

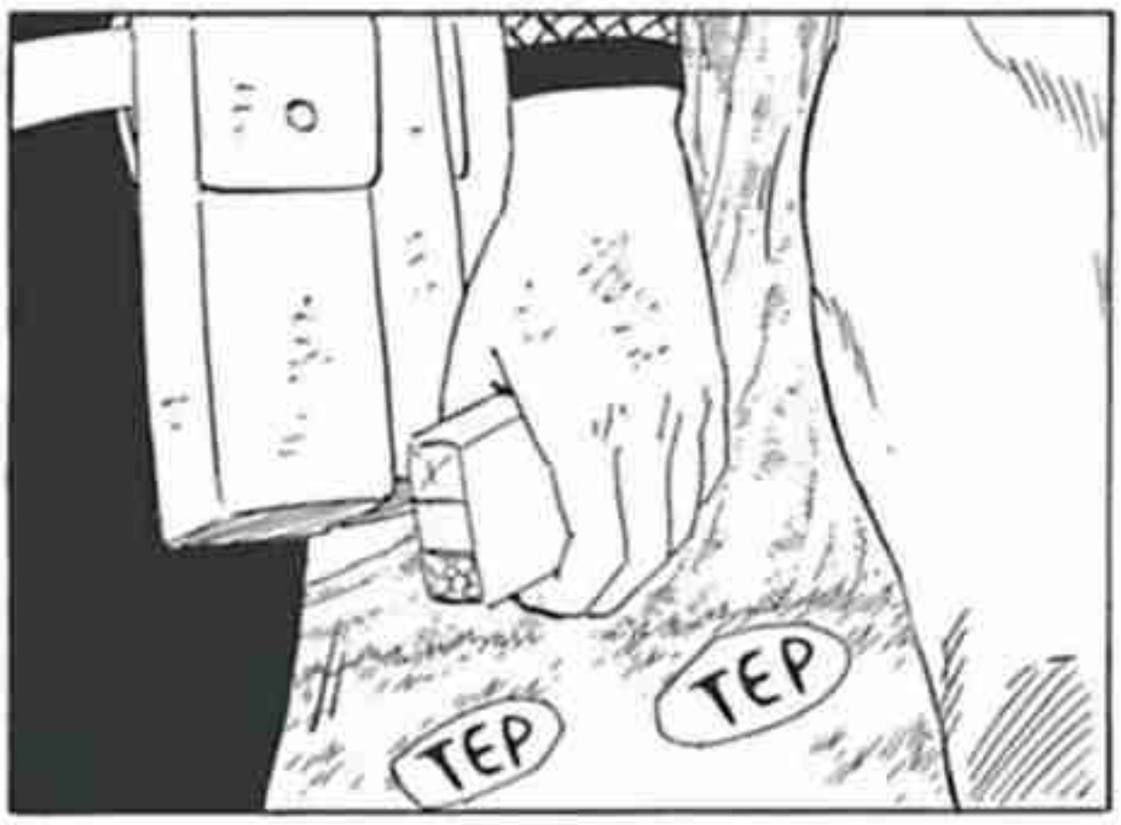
MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS

○PART 10 ASSISTANT NO. 10: SATÔ ATSUHIRO

[PROFILE]

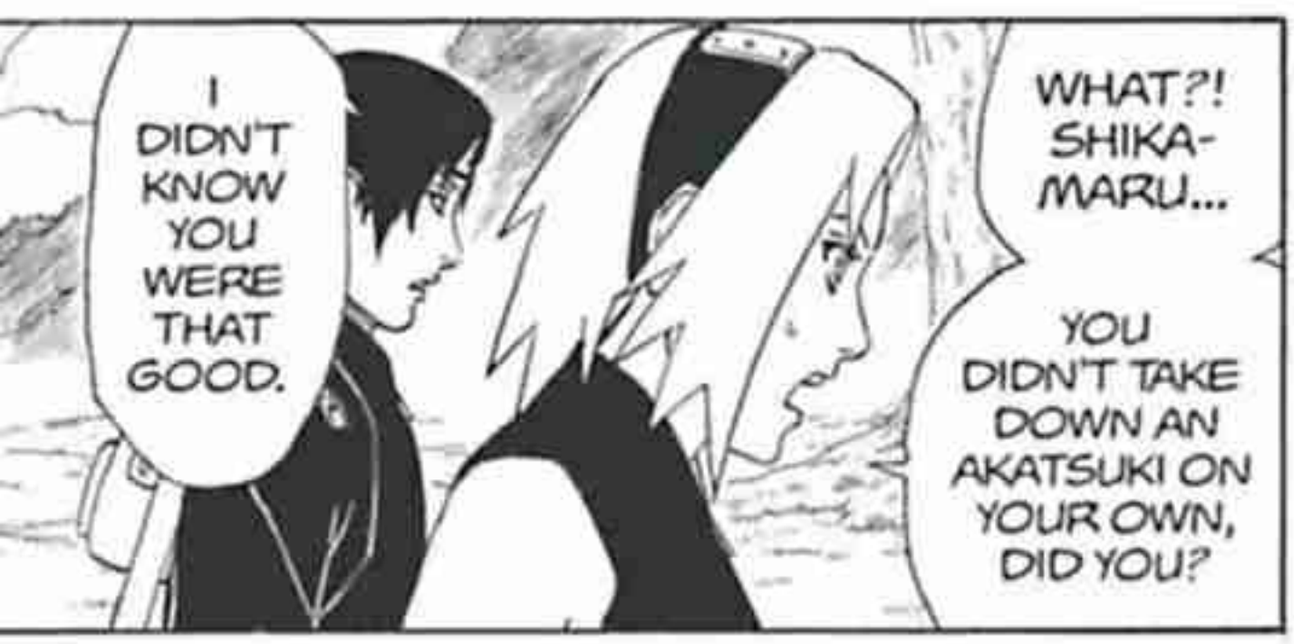
- ○ A VETERAN OF ULTRA HIGH-PROFILE PROJECTS LIKE *ROOKIES* AND *DEATH NOTE*.
- ○ ONE OF THE FIRST FIFTY PEOPLE EVER TO FINISH HUDSON'S *BOMBERMAN*, AND HAS THE CERTIFICATE TO PROVE IT!
- ○ LOVES VIDEO GAMES AND KNOWS A BUNCH ABOUT THEM. AN EXPERT AT *STREET FIGHTER II*
- ○ ZANGIEF – GIVE HIM AN OPENING AND HE'LL WHIRL YOU AROUND AND BEAT YOU IN AN INSTANT.
- ○ BLANKA – GIVE HIM AN OPENING AND HE'LL ZOOM AT YOU LIKE A CORKSCREW AND KNOCK YOU OUT.
- ○ WOLF – SHOW HIM A WEAKNESS AND HE'LL SPIN YOU AND SLAM YOU DOWN. BUT... WELL, HE'S STILL NEW AT *VIRTUA FIGHTER*.
- ○ INCREDIBLY SKILLED AT ASSEMBLING PLASTIC MODELS (I.E., GUNDAM). HE'S JUST A DEXTEROUS GUY IN GENERAL!

Number 342: The Black King...!


TEP
TEP

SHK

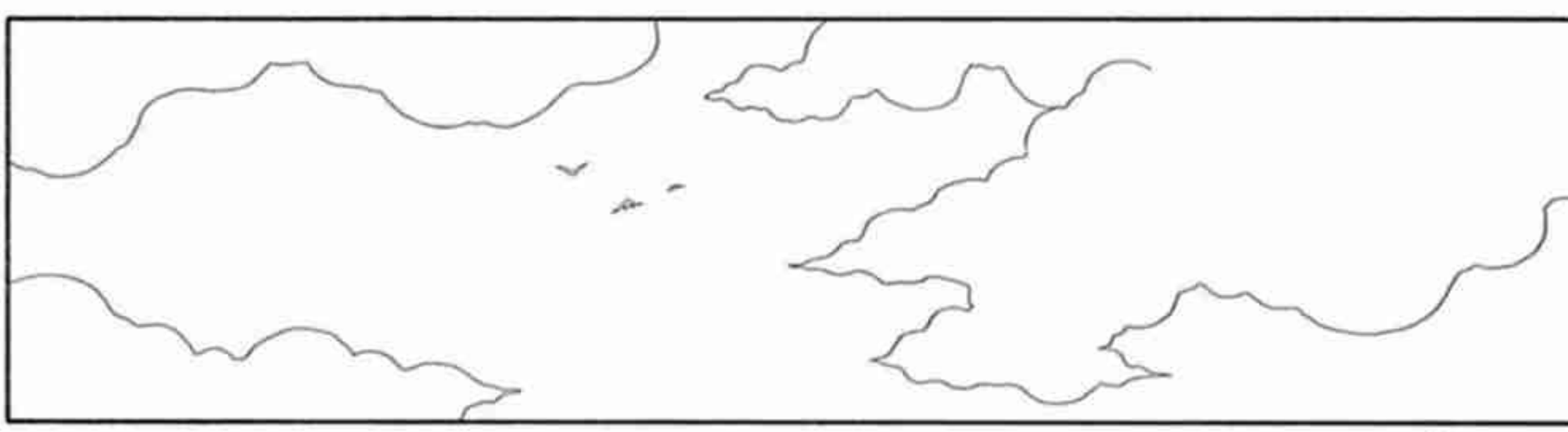
!
TAK
FOUND YOU!

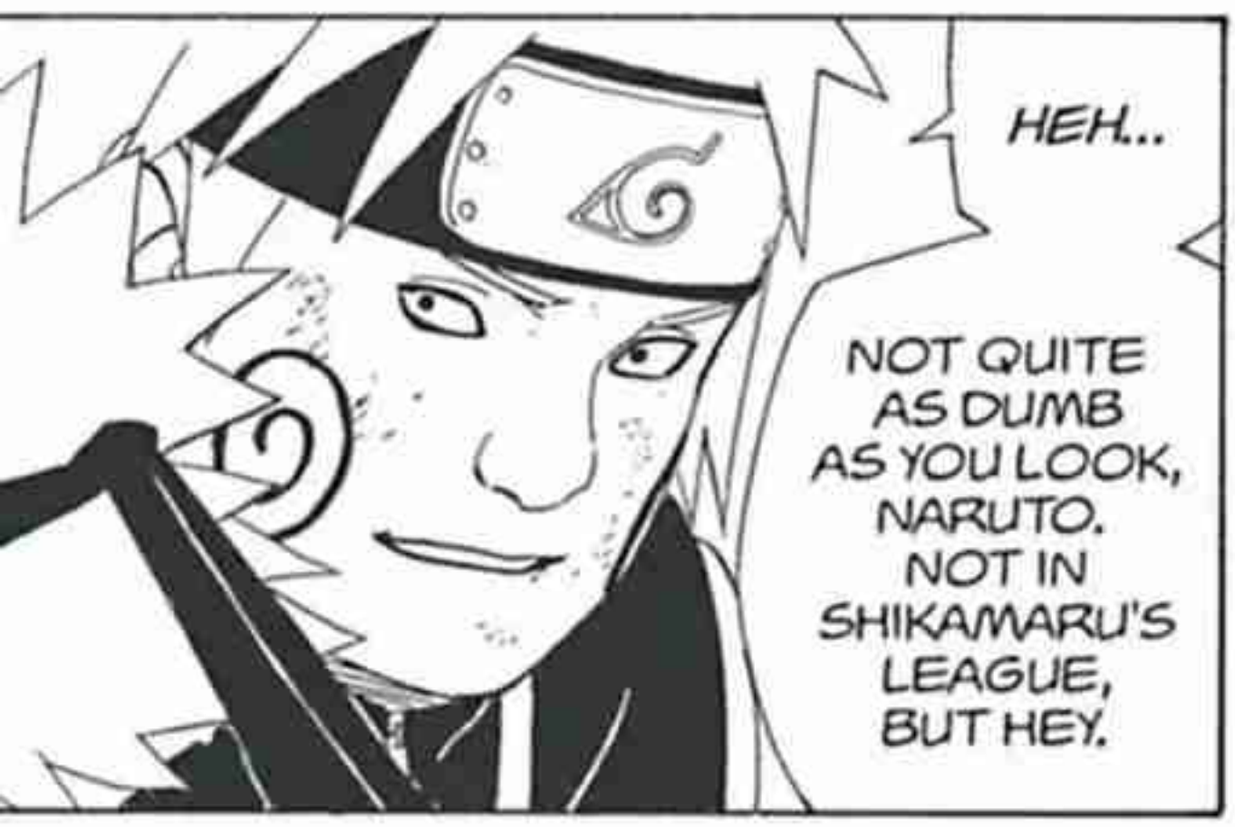

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT GOOD.
WHAT?! SHIKA-MARU...
YOU DIDN'T TAKE DOWN AN AKATSUKI ON YOUR OWN, DID YOU?

REIN-FORCE-MENTS?
WELL, YOU'RE A BIT LATE.

SST

I HAD TO. THIS TIME, I...I KNEW I JUST HAD TO.



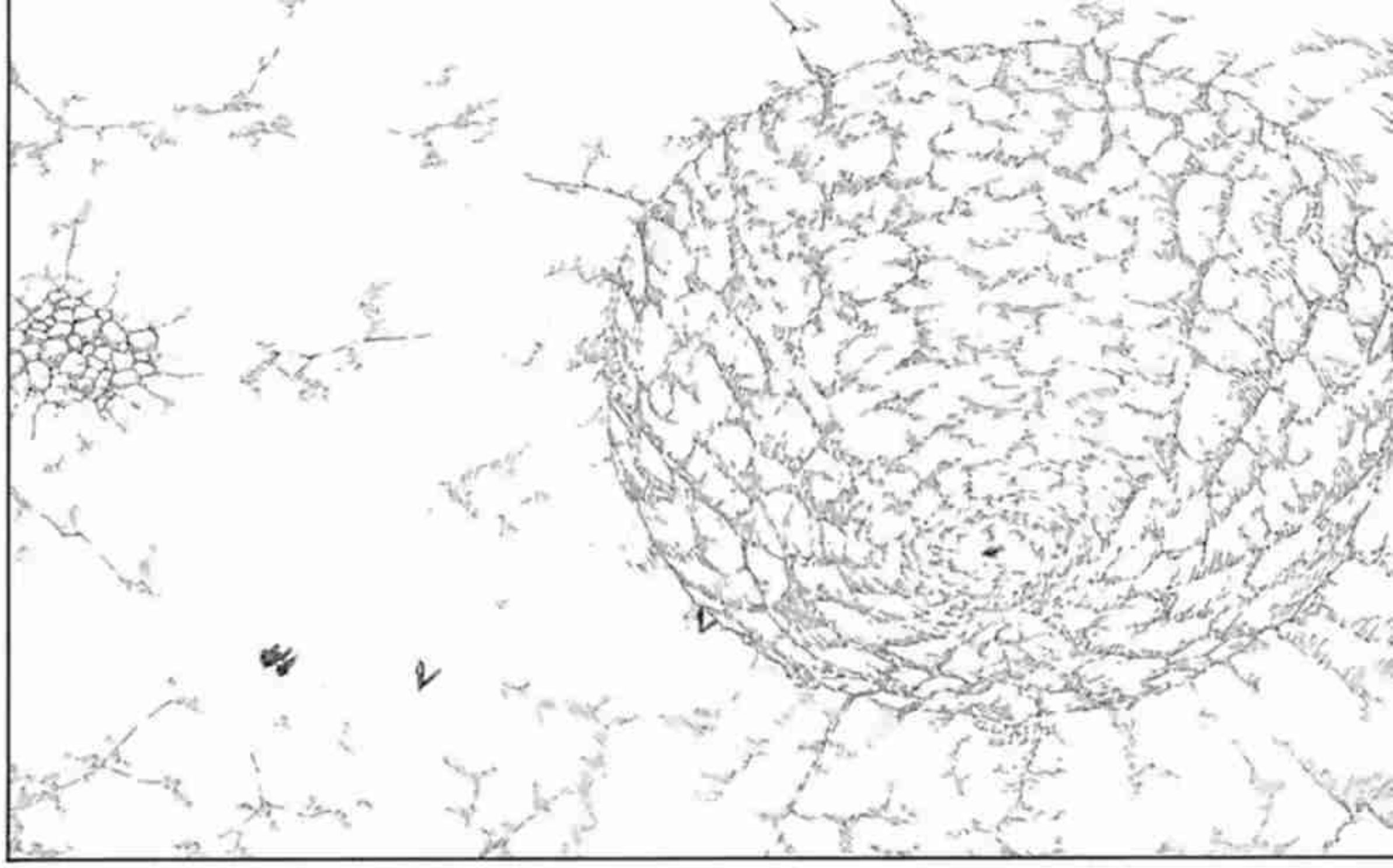

HEH...
NOT QUITE AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK, NARUTO. NOT IN SHIKAMARU'S LEAGUE, BUT HEY.

HUMM
THOSE DOPPEL-GANGERS ARE ONLY MEANT AS A DIVERSION. NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D USE THEM LIKE THAT.

PLEASE DON'T COMPARE ME TO SHIKA-MARU...

...

YOU COULD ONLY DO IT TWICE DURING TRAINING.
I'M IMPRESSED. YOU PULLED OFF THAT JUTSU THREE TIMES IN A ROW.

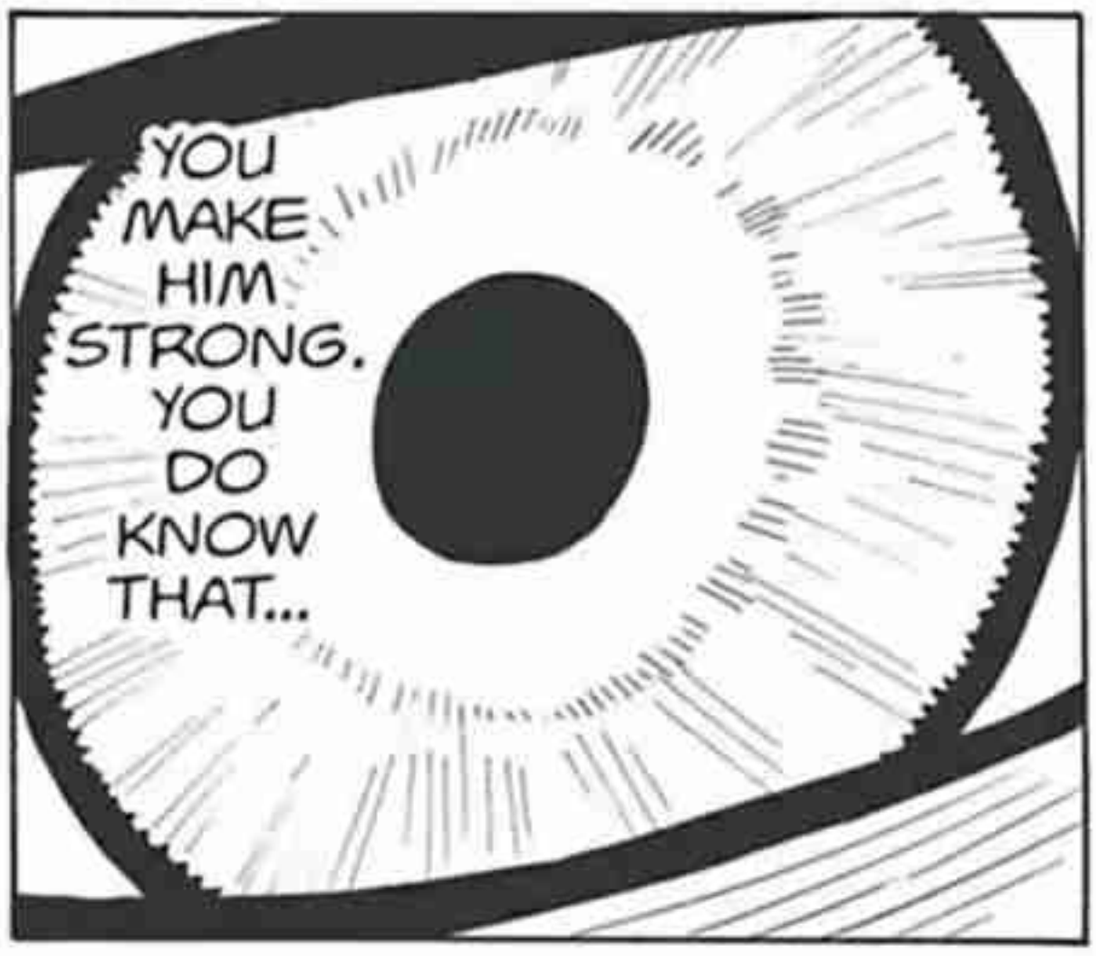


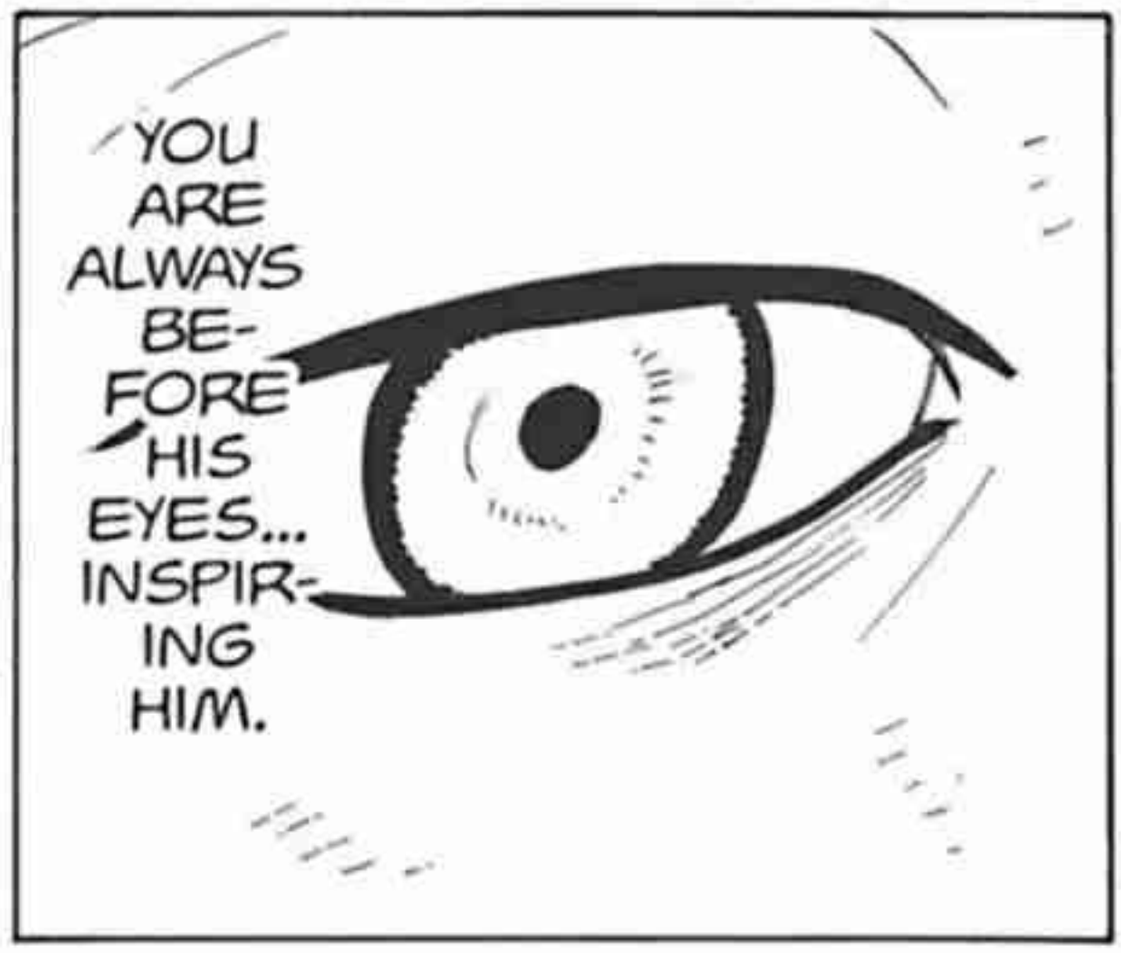
JUTSU THAT WERE BEYOND EVEN THE FOURTH HOKAGE ARE WELL WITHIN HIS COMMAND.
NARUTO HAS BECOME STRONG. TRULY STRONG.

SUCH CONFIDENCE... AND THE WIT TO TURN FAILURE ON ITS HEAD AND QUICKLY PLAN HIS NEXT MOVE.

CAN YOU SENSE IT?
...

HE HAS SUR-PASSED ME.
I GUESS IT'S TIME TO PASS THE TORCH...


YOU MAKE HIM STRONG. YOU DO KNOW THAT...


YOU ARE ALWAYS BE-FORE HIS EYES... INSPIR-ING HIM.

DON'T YOU, SASUKE?

YEAH.
MASTER KAKASHI! TIME TO MOVE?

HE'S CLEANING UP.
WHAT ABOUT MASTER KAKASHI?
OKAY, PEOPLE. WE'RE MOVING BACK TO KONOHA.
SHI
DE-FEATED ...BY A BUNCH OF ...BRATS ...
URK...
TAK

BUT IT GOES TWO WAYS. TO OUR EYES, YOU'RE JUST AN OLD GEEZER GONE WRONG.

WELL... YOU DID FIGHT THE FIRST HOKAGE.

I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR SEEING US AS KIDS.

AND HERE YOU ARE DYING, HUGGING THE EARTH LIKE A WORM.

BZZZAK

SHA

BZZZAK

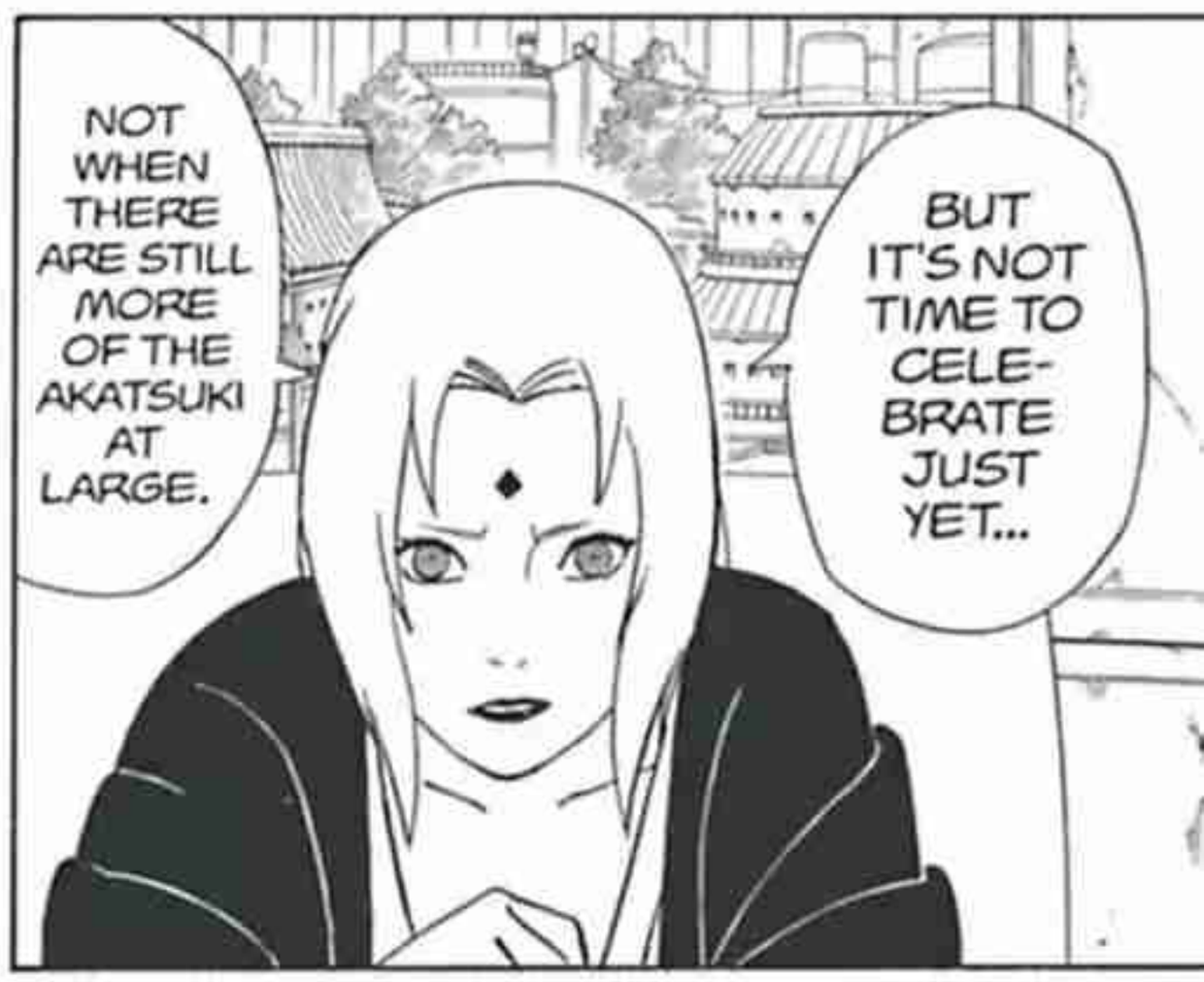
ONE BY ONE...

THE NEW GENERATION WILL CATCH UP TO YOU. AND THEY WILL ALL SURPASS YOU IN THE END.

(FIRE)

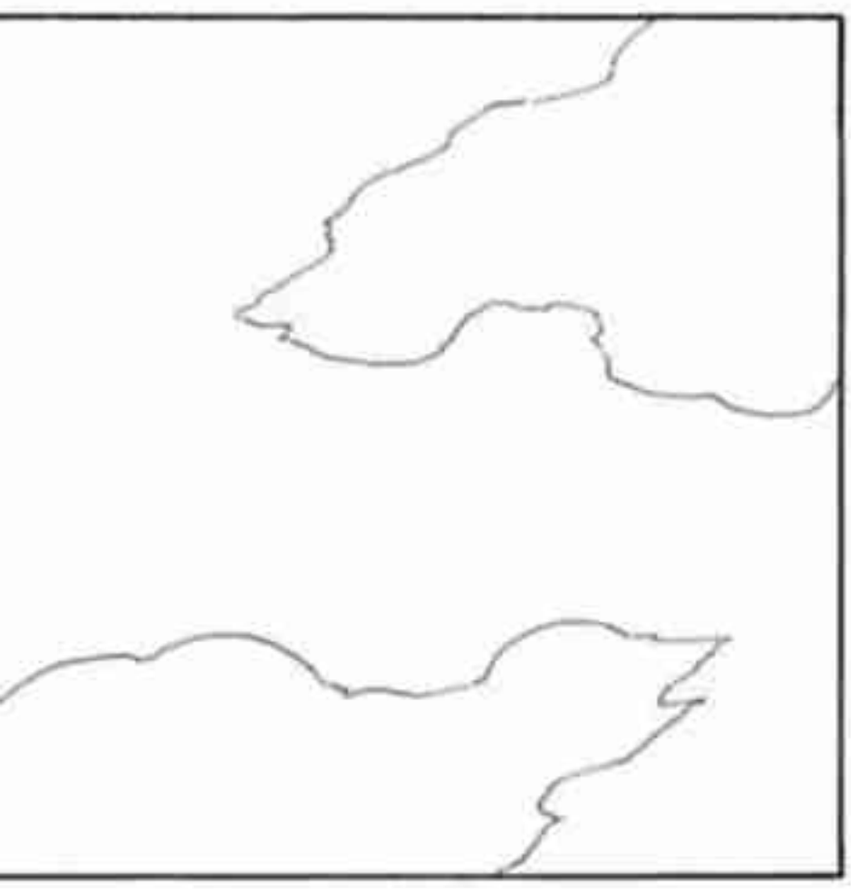
WELL DONE, PEOPLE.

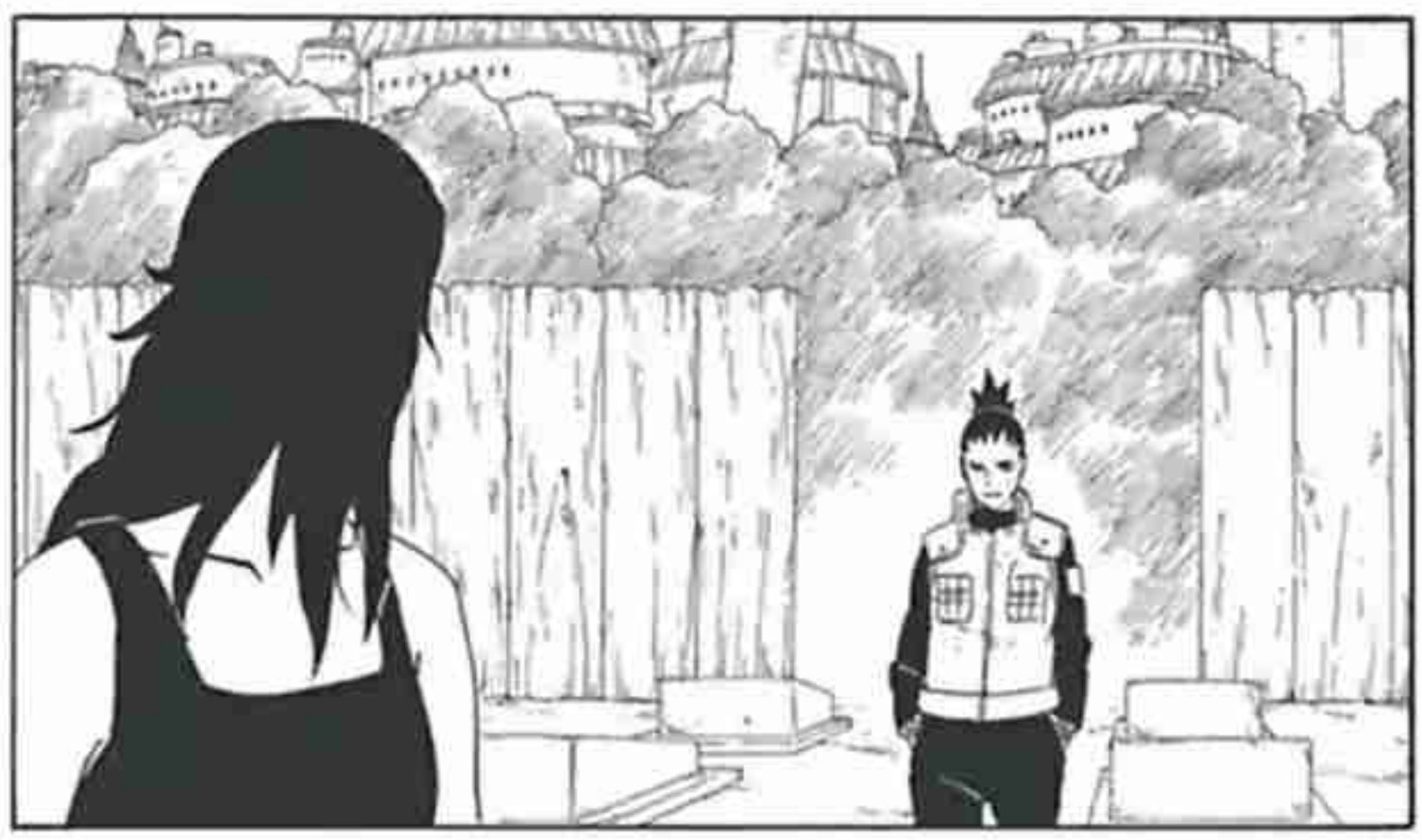
BUT...
TEAM TWO, I GRANT YOU LEAVE.


NOT WHEN THERE ARE STILL MORE OF THE AKATSUKI AT LARGE.
BUT IT'S NOT TIME TO CELE-BRATE JUST YET...

猿飛 アスマ

(SARUTOBI ASUMA)





YOU WERE ASUMA'S FAVORITE.

YOU MUST MISS HIM TOO...

YOU LOST YOUR SHOGI MATE...

IF I SAID I DIDN'T MISS HIM, I'D BE LYING.

I CAN'T DO THE SELF-PITY THING.

BUT I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, AND I'M EXPECTED TO ACT MY AGE.

SHOGI WAS ONE OF THEM.

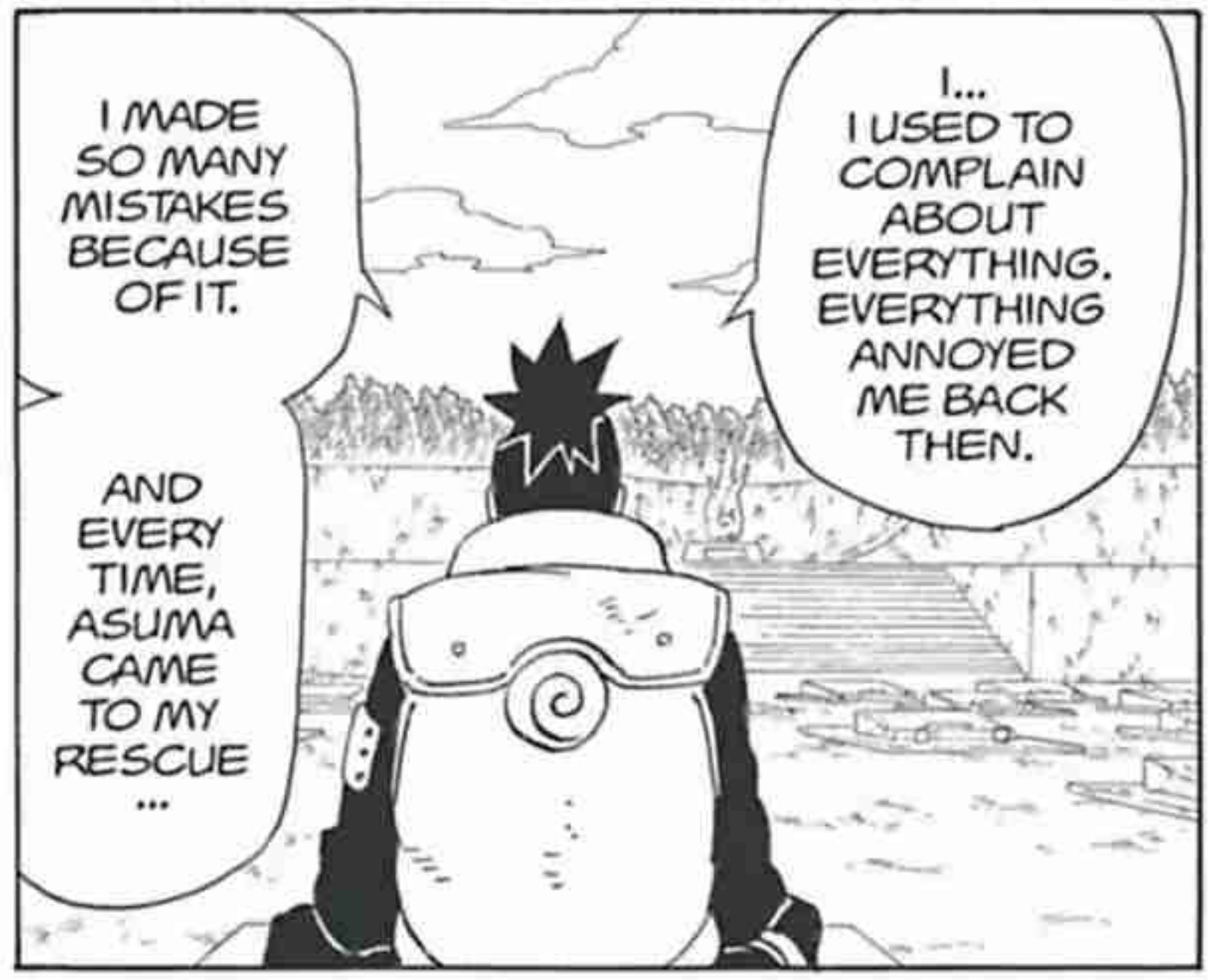
HE TAUGHT ME A BUNCH OF THINGS... SOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS.

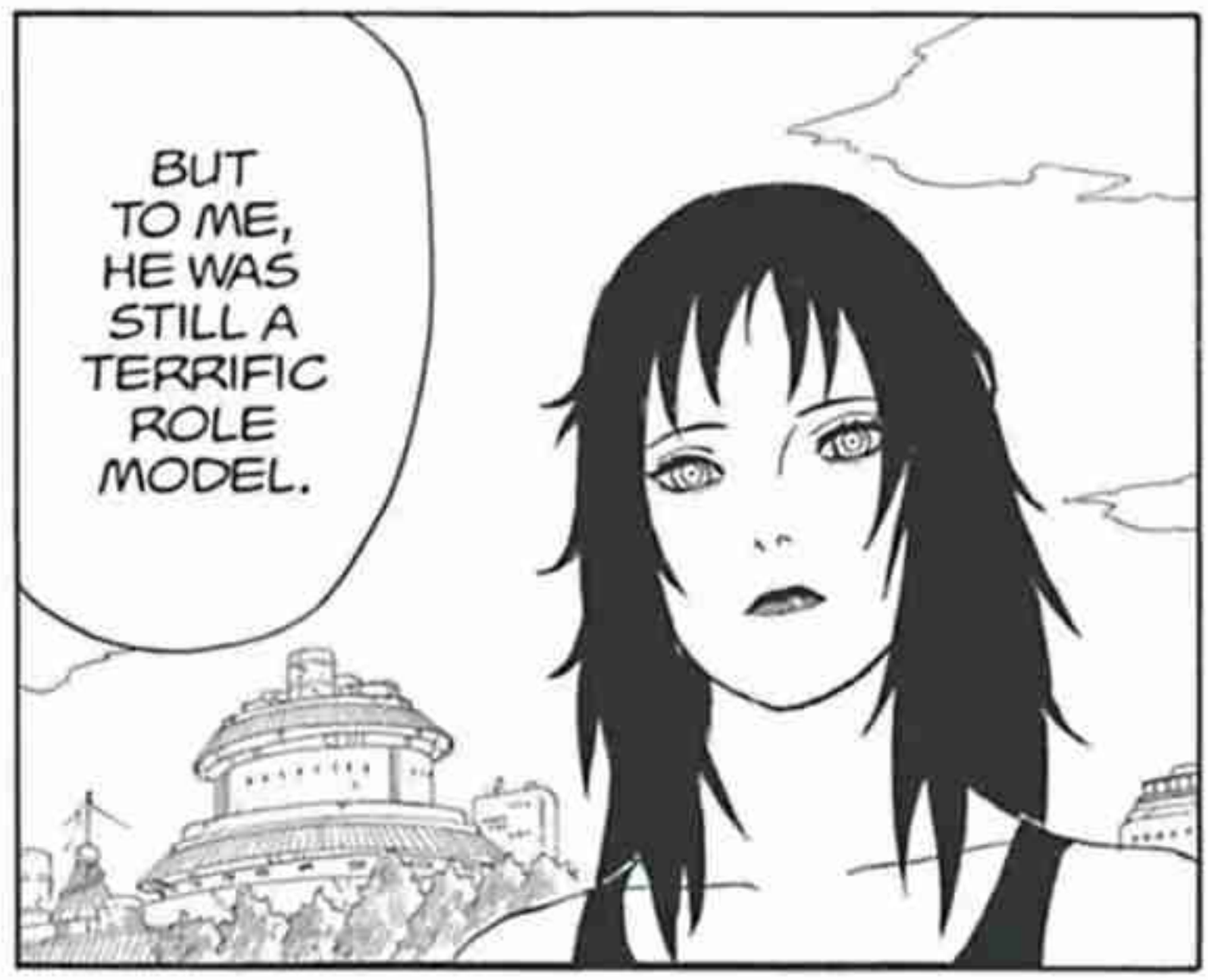
...

...

READ
THIS
WAY

SO ELUSIVE... SO HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
HE WAS AN ODD TEACHER ...


I MADE SO MANY MISTAKES BECAUSE OF IT.
AND EVERY TIME, ASUMA CAME TO MY RESCUE ...
I... I USED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING ANNOYED ME BACK THEN.


BUT TO ME, HE WAS STILL A TERRIFIC ROLE MODEL.

SHF
AND NOW IT'S MY TURN.

WHEN THAT BABY ARRIVES ...

IT'LL BE MY TURN AS GUARDIAN AND MASTER.

I GUESS I'VE GOT SOME REAL GROWING UP TO DO.

THANK YOU.

...

READ THIS WAY
DAD, YOU'RE MUCH BETTER AT THIS THAN ASUMA.
WELL, YOU KNOW. WHEN DEFENDING THE BLACK KING AGAINST A STRONGER OPPONENT ...
SACRIFICE IS UNAVOID-ABLE.
CLIMB-ING SILVER, EH?
SNAP
SNAP
BOY, THAT'S ONE DEVIOUS KNIGHT YOU'VE GOT THERE.
AND NO MATTER WHICH OF MY GOLD GENERALS GETS AWAY, YOUR BISHOP WILL ENTER AND BE PROMOTED ...
LOOK, IF YOU RETREAT THAT WAY...
MY KNIGHT CAN BARREL RIGHT UP HERE.
SNAP

IT'S SOME-THING ASUMA SAID ONCE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT WOULD BE ME.
IF KONOHA'S SHINOBI WERE SHOGI PIECES...

THAT HE DID.
SNAP
DID HE... I GUESS HE KNEW YOU INSIDE OUT.

...

...

SO THEN... WHO'S THE BLACK KING?

王
SNAP

THEY'RE THE BLACK KING.

THE CHILDREN WHO WILL CARRY KONOHA ON THEIR SHOULDERS.

...

AH!

YOU DO GET IT, DON'T YOU.

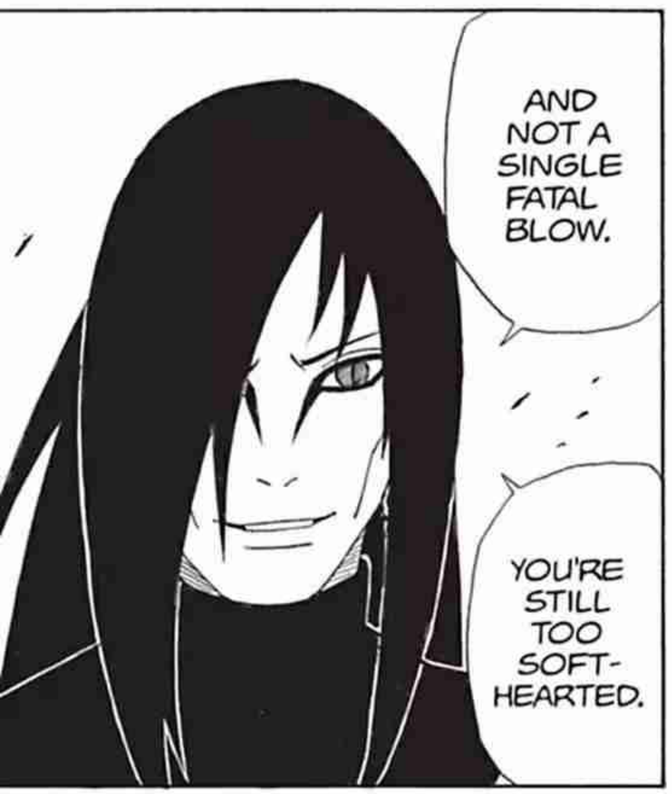
AND... CHECK-MATE.

THOK

ARGH!

YOU NEED TO WORK HARDER!

YOU'RE NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE BLACK KING!



DID I GET THEM ALL?

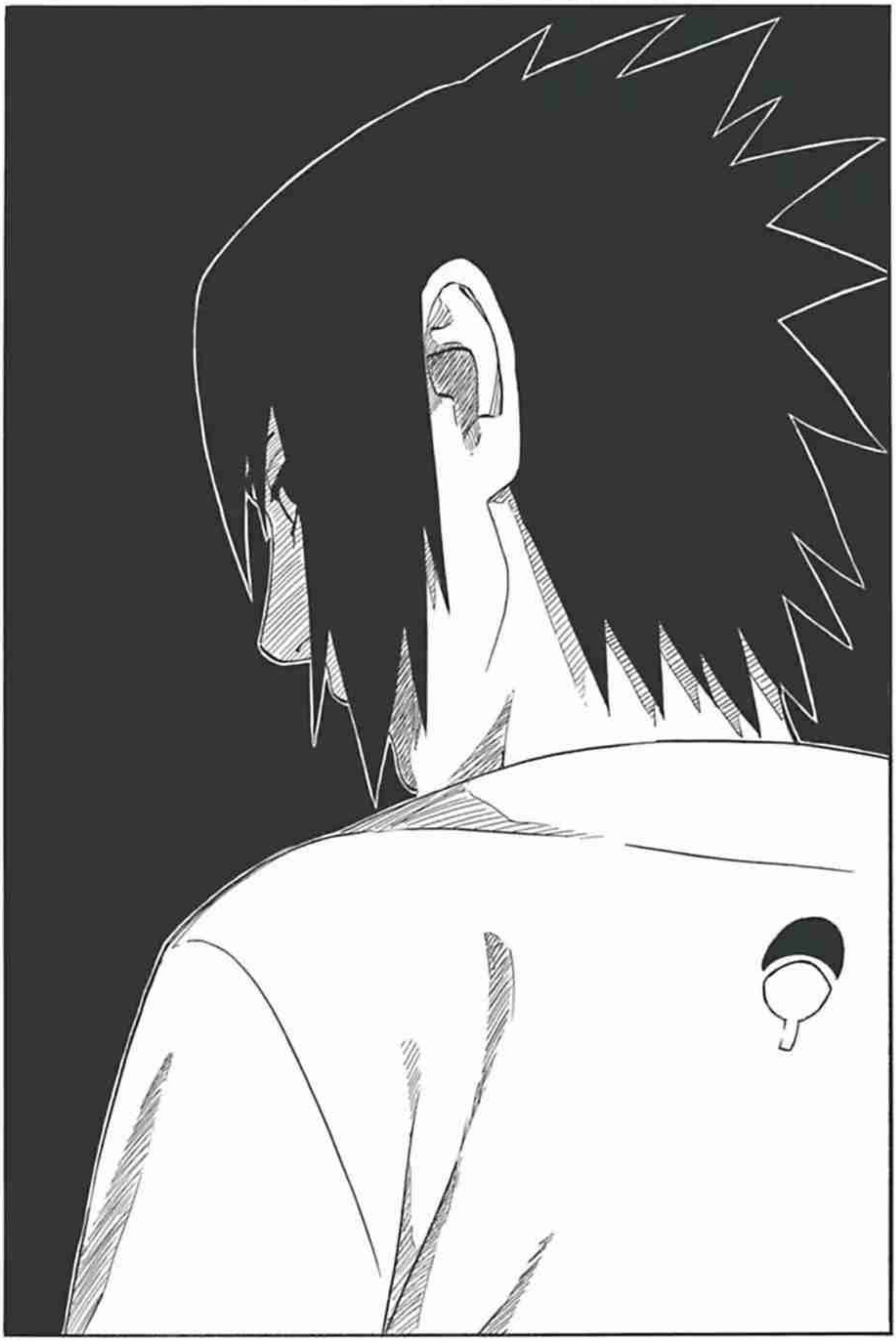
ERF...

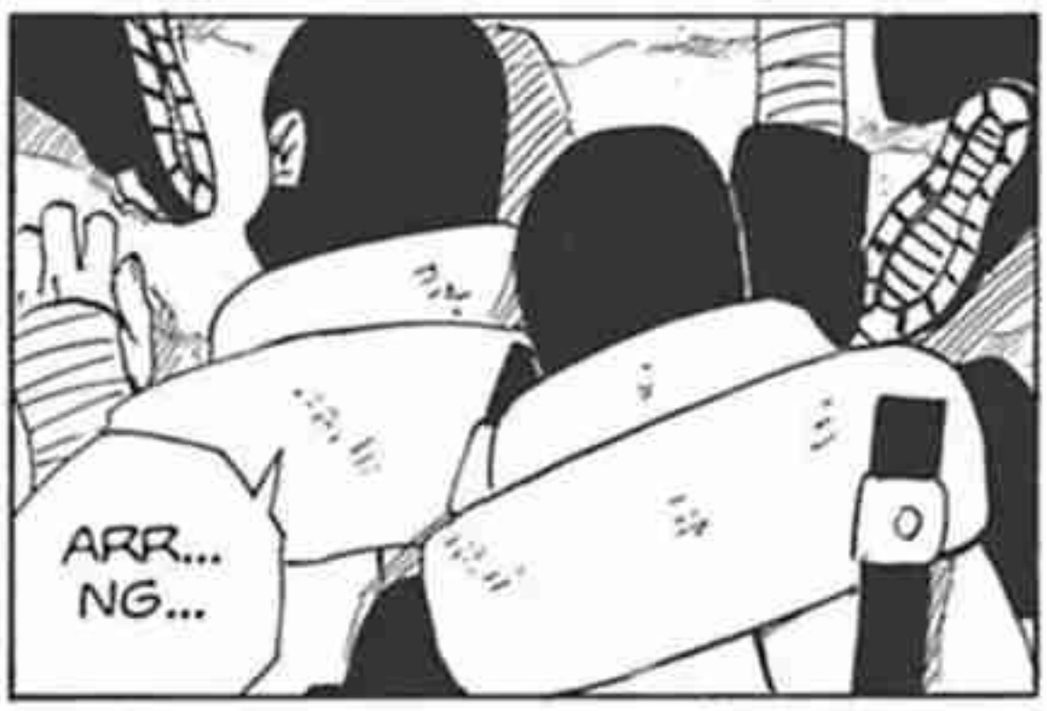
AWG!

UNGH!

王
SNAP

Number 343: Merciless...




ARR...
NG...

URK...

SSS

SO LONG AS YOU HAVE MERCY...
YOU CANNOT BEST ITACHI.

THAT WON'T TAKE ANY EFFORT.

I'LL BE MERCILESS ENOUGH WHEN I SEE HIM.

THEY CALLED ME A GENIUS, BUT COM-PARED TO HIM...

NOT A DROP OF BLOOD ON HIM...

TAK

SPOK

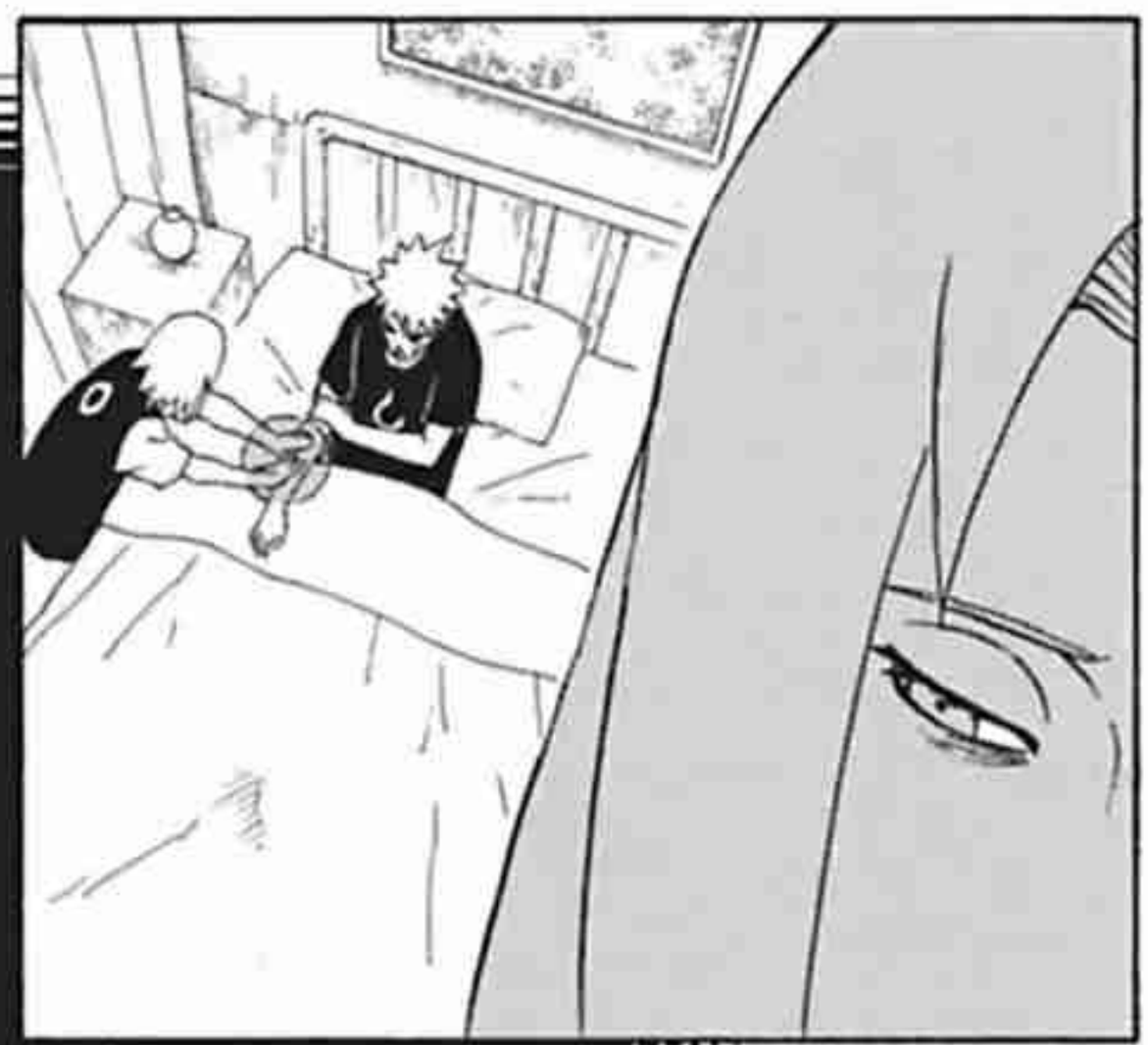
TEP

TEP

SHING

A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE, AND HE'S MINE!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

(ICHIRAKU)



THIS NEW JUTSU OF YOURS IS ONLY MEANT AS A LAST RESORT!

JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL THINK BEFORE USING IT!

SSSS!

YOU MUST'VE BROKEN HALF THE BONES IN YOUR BODY! IT'S NOT MADE FOR THIS KIND OF STRAIN...

THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN PATCH UP! MEDICAL NINJUTSU IS A SCIENCE, NOT A MIRACLE CURE!

HEH...HEY, IT'S NO BIG DEAL SO LONG AS I'VE GOT YOU AROUND TO FIX ME.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

HUH?

YEAH, STILL... I LIKE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE NOW.

...

'CAUSE, SAKURA, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO REACH SASUKE TOGETHER.

SKRRT

...FEED ME?

AM I DREAMING? SHE'S NOT GOING TO...

!

GIMME YOUR CHOP-STICKS.

YOU'RE HOPE-LESS.

IT'S TOO HOT!! AND WHO ASKED FOR YOUR HELP?!

HOT !!!

NOW SAY AH... ♪

TWIKK

ZWIP

HMPH.

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ASKING THAT?

MASTER KAKASHI, HOW ARE YOU EVEN OUT OF BED?

I WOULD HAVE HAD NO CHOICE.

BUT IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP WHEN YOU DID...

I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO USE MY MANGEKYO SHARINGAN THIS TIME.

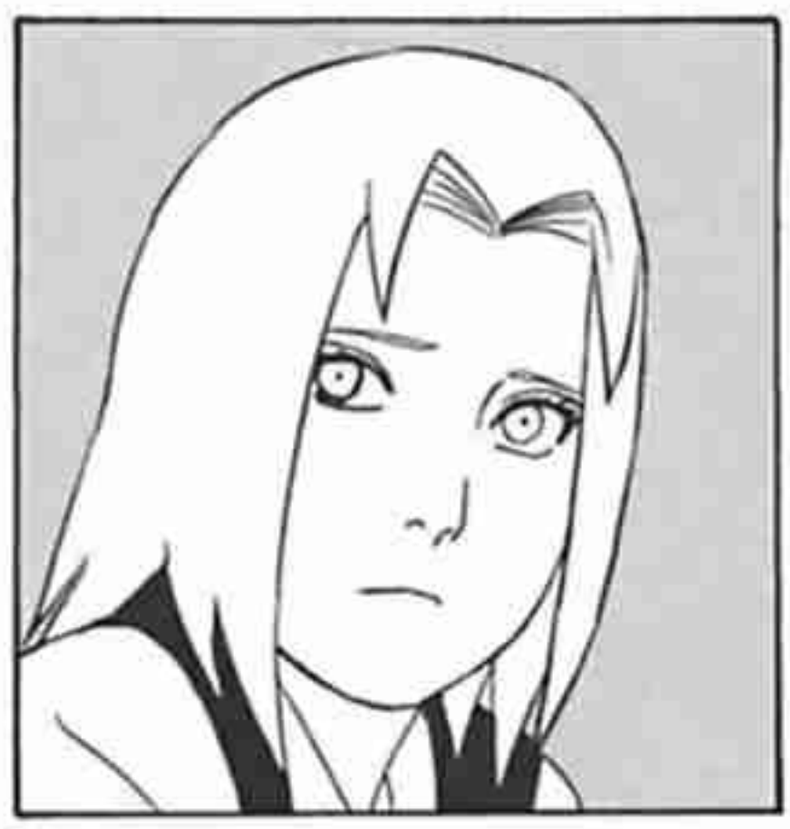
PSSH.

AND THEN I *WOULD* BE IN BED RIGHT NOW... IN THE HOSPITAL!

HEH.

YOU MAY EVEN SURPASS ME.

YOU'RE STRONG, NARUTO.

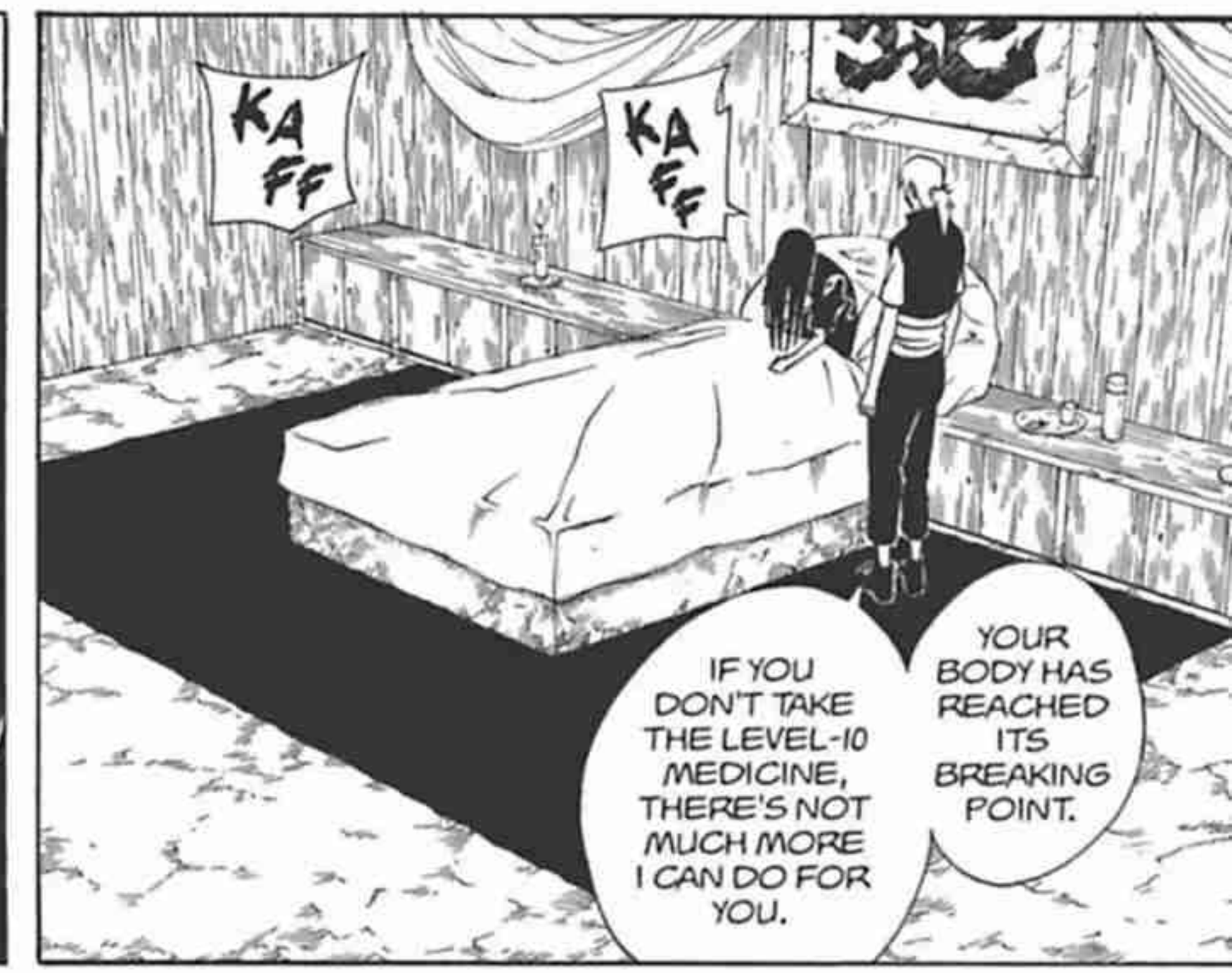


YEAH...

THING IS, THE MORE PROFOUND THE JUTSU...

...THE RISKIER IT IS TO WIELD. JUST REMEMBER THAT.

HAA
HAA

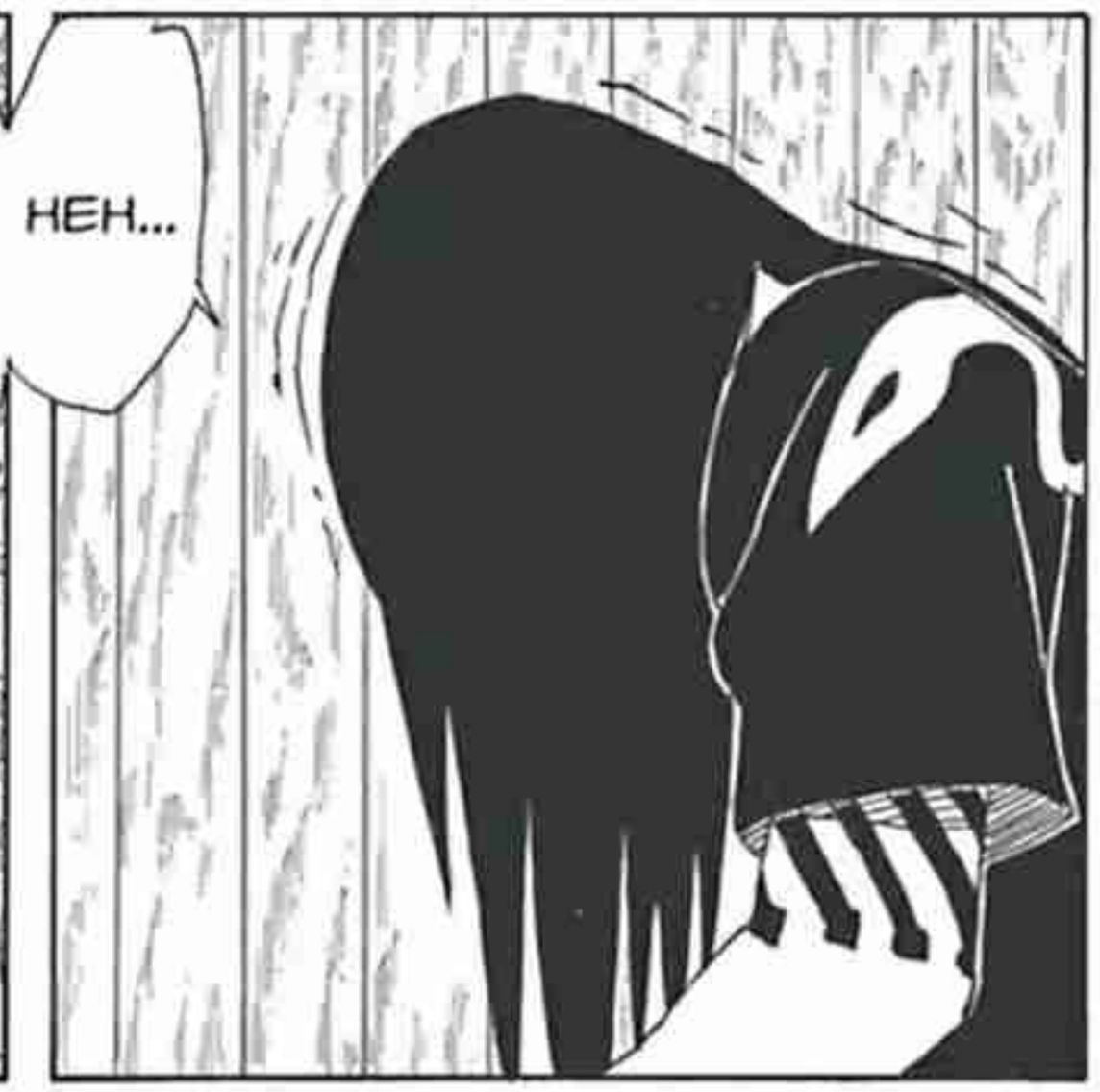

KA FF
KA FF
IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE LEVEL-10 MEDICINE, THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU.
YOUR BODY HAS REACHED ITS BREAKING POINT.

B-TUM
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

CREAK

SHK
I'LL GO GET THE OTHER MEDICINE.

HA HA HA HA HA HA.

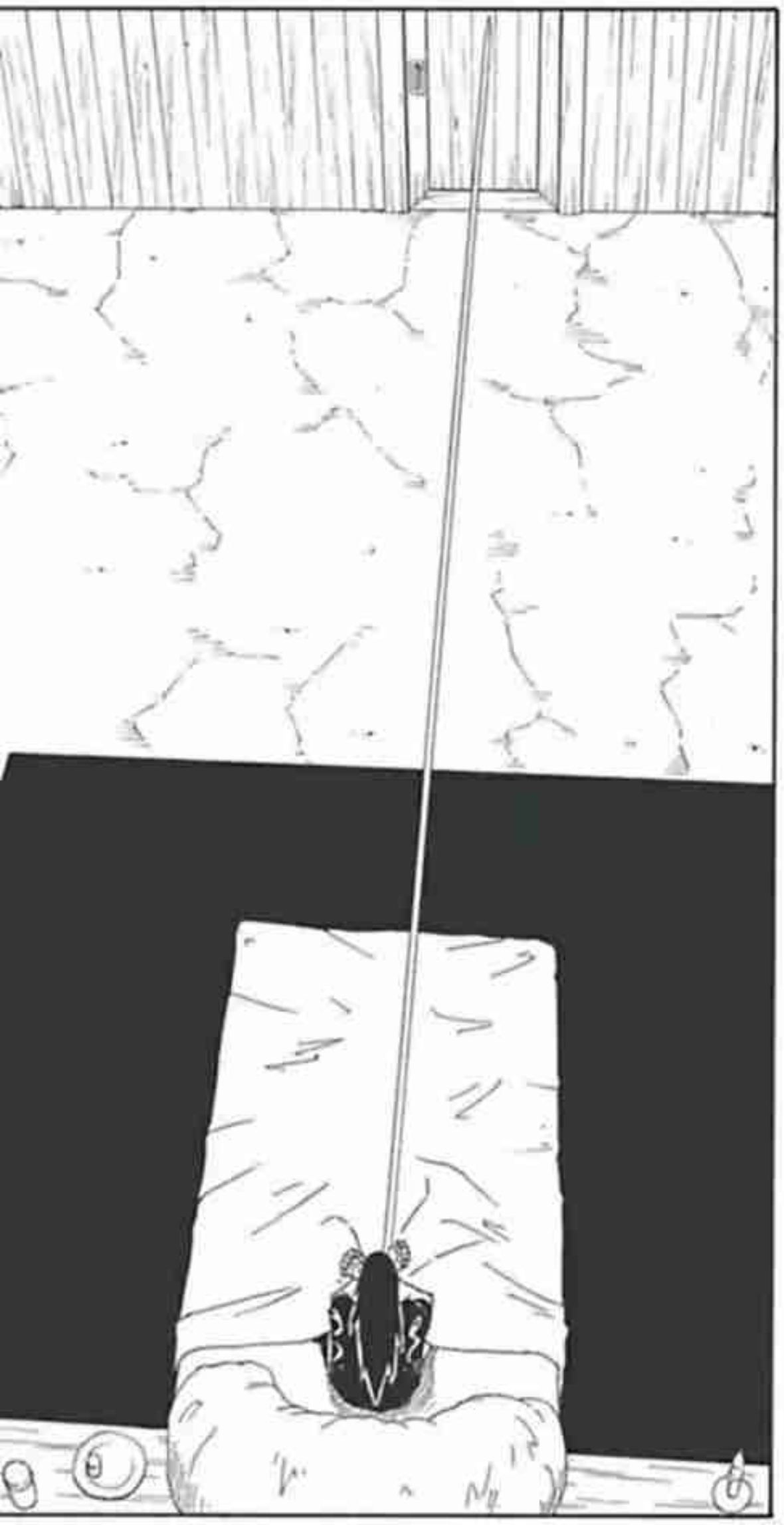

HEH...

...

!

KAFFF
KAFFF
HA HA...

SHK
FWSSH
SGG

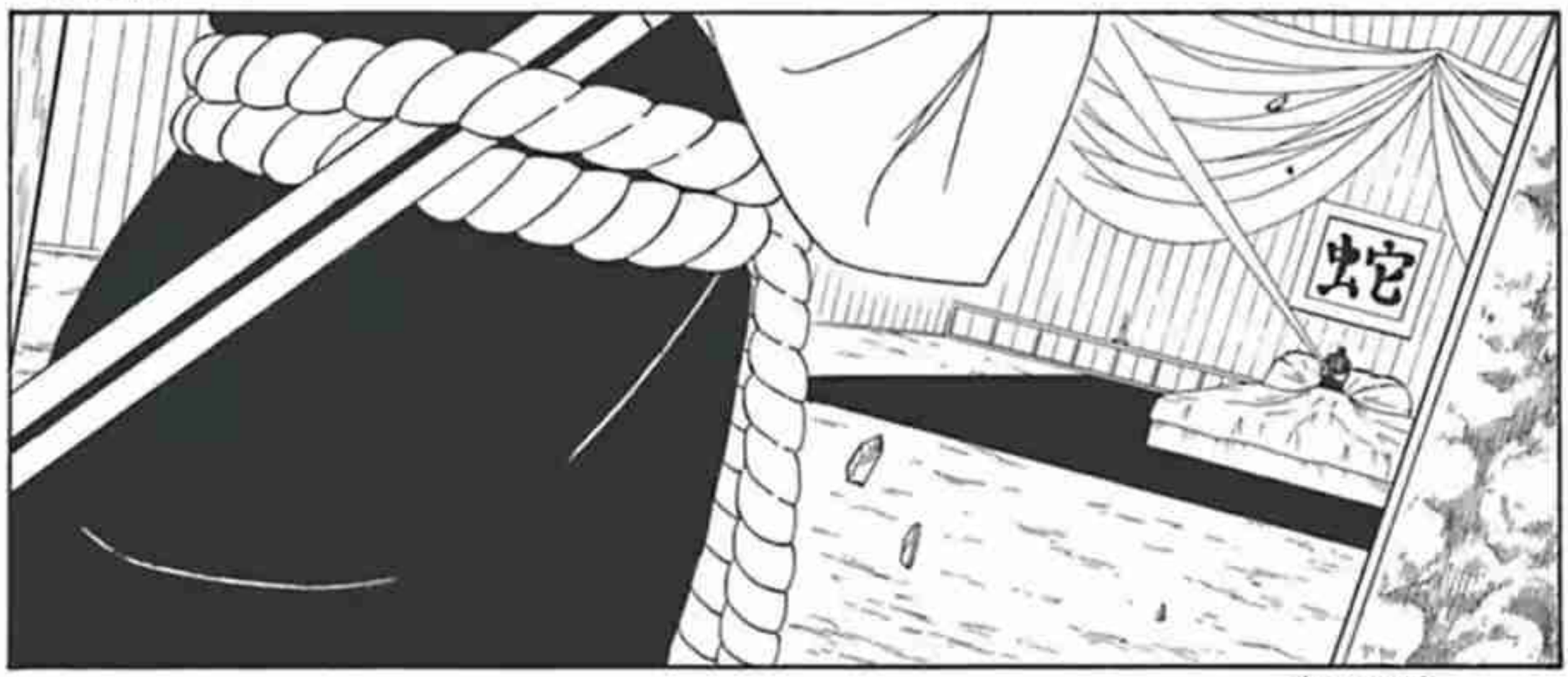


I'VE NEVER SEEN IT CHANGE ITS FORM LIKE THIS.
THIS CHAKRA ...

WHO'S THERE?

CHUKKA

SPA KKAK KAK


蛇

(SNAKE)

THERE'S NO MORE YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME.

I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME.

SWOO
...EVEN TO YOU!
I CAN BE MERCI-LESS...
ZWURP

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS

○ PART II ASSISTANT NO. 11: SHIRASAKA AKIO

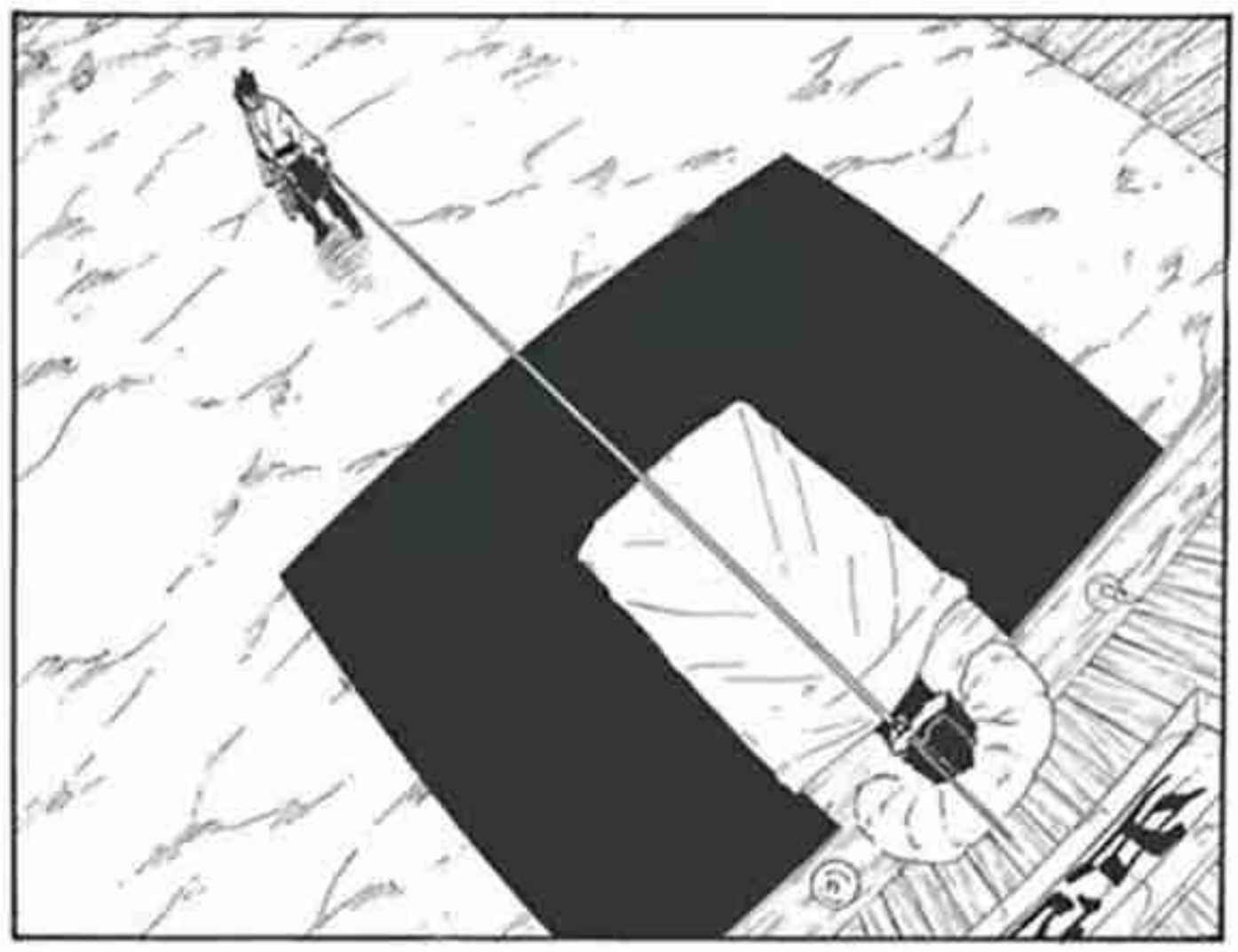
[PROFILE]

- ○ GREW UP WAY OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS, SO WHEN ASSISTANT NO. 9 (MURAKAMI) STARTS GABBING ABOUT COUNTRY LIFE, HE CHIMES IN WITH GUSTO.
- ○ PERPETUALLY QUIET, HIS LIPS CURLED UP INTO A PLEASANT SMILE—CAUSING ASSISTANT NO. 6 (TASAKA) TO KEEP REPEATING, "I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT! WHAT'S HE THINKING?!"
- ○ WANTS TO DRAW MANGA, BUT TOO ENTRANCED WITH THE GAME *MONSTER HUNTER* TO STOP PLAYING, LEADING TO TROUBLE WITH ASSISTANT NO. 8 (ITAKURA).
- ○ HE IDOLIZES ASSISTANT NO. 3 (IKEMOTO) LIKE A BROTHER. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY SHARE THE SAME PASSION FOR *MONSTER HUNTER*.
- ○ HE'S A WHIZ AT DRAWING, AND THAT'S WHY HE'S KISHIMOTO'S FAVORITE.

Number 344: The Snake...

OROCHI-MARU.

I'M STRONGER THAN YOU.



ITACHI WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME AFTER ME, THE BABY.

...

YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS UCHIHA... AND YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU.
IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE JUST A RUN-OF-THE-MILL NINJA.

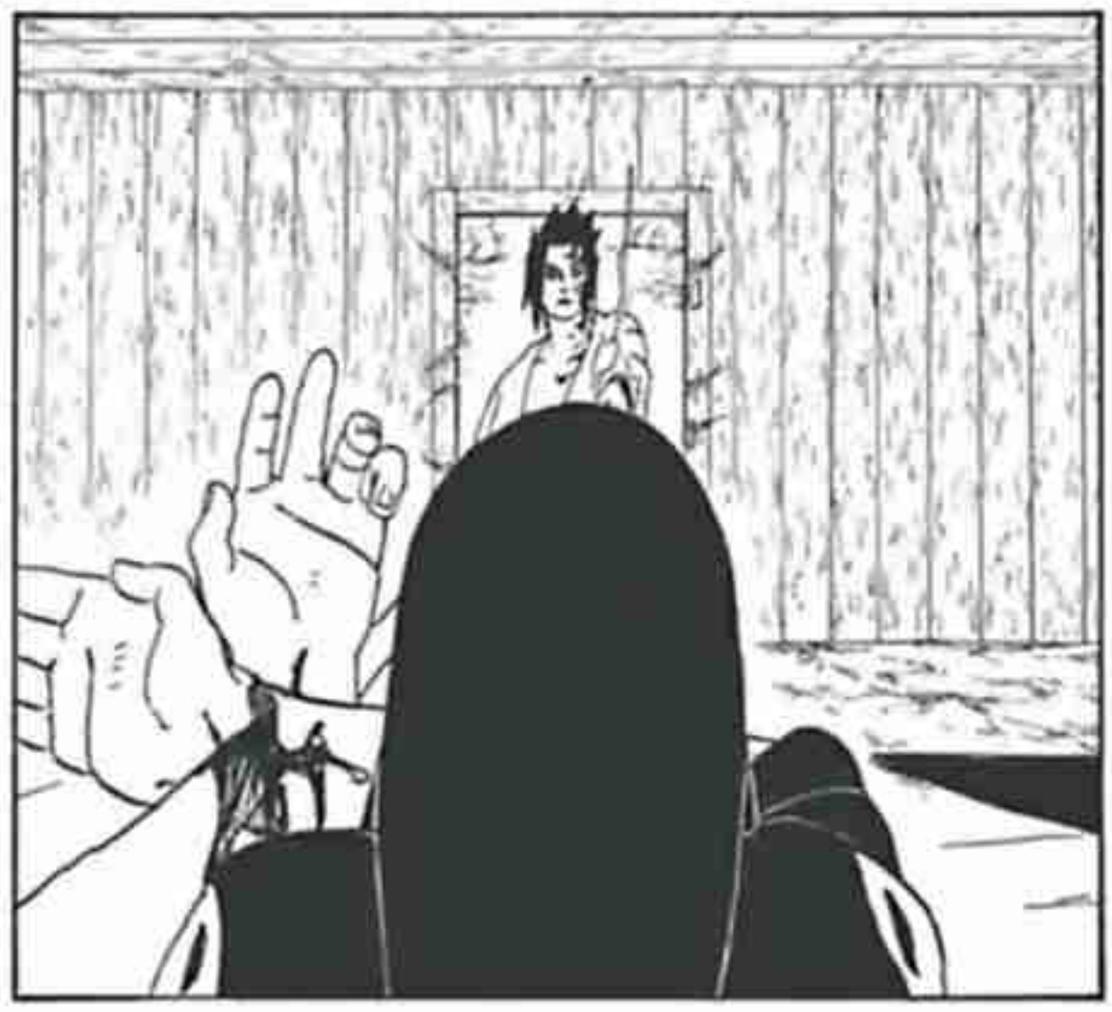
AND THEY SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI?
ISN'T THAT TRUE, BRIGHT EYES?

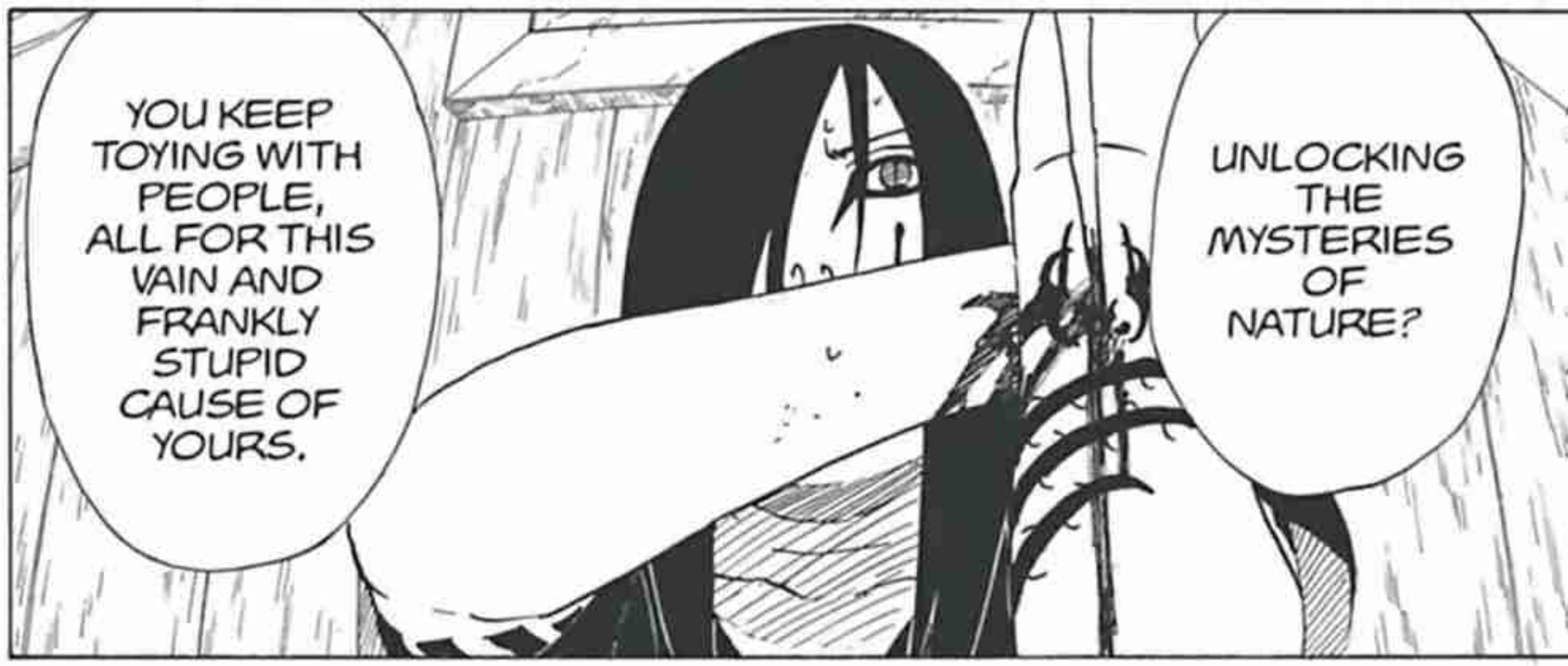
BEFORE UCHIHA, MILD BRILLIANCE SUCH AS YOURS BECOMES ACTUALLY RATHER ORDINARY.

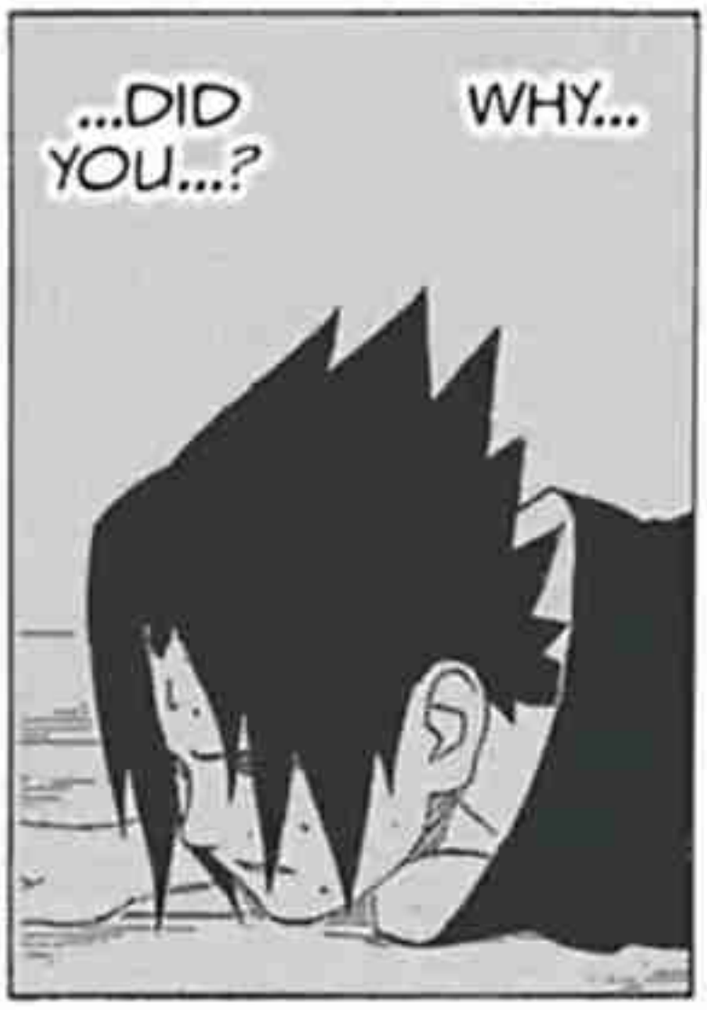
AS AN UCHIHA, ALL I SEE IS A MISERABLE WRETCH.

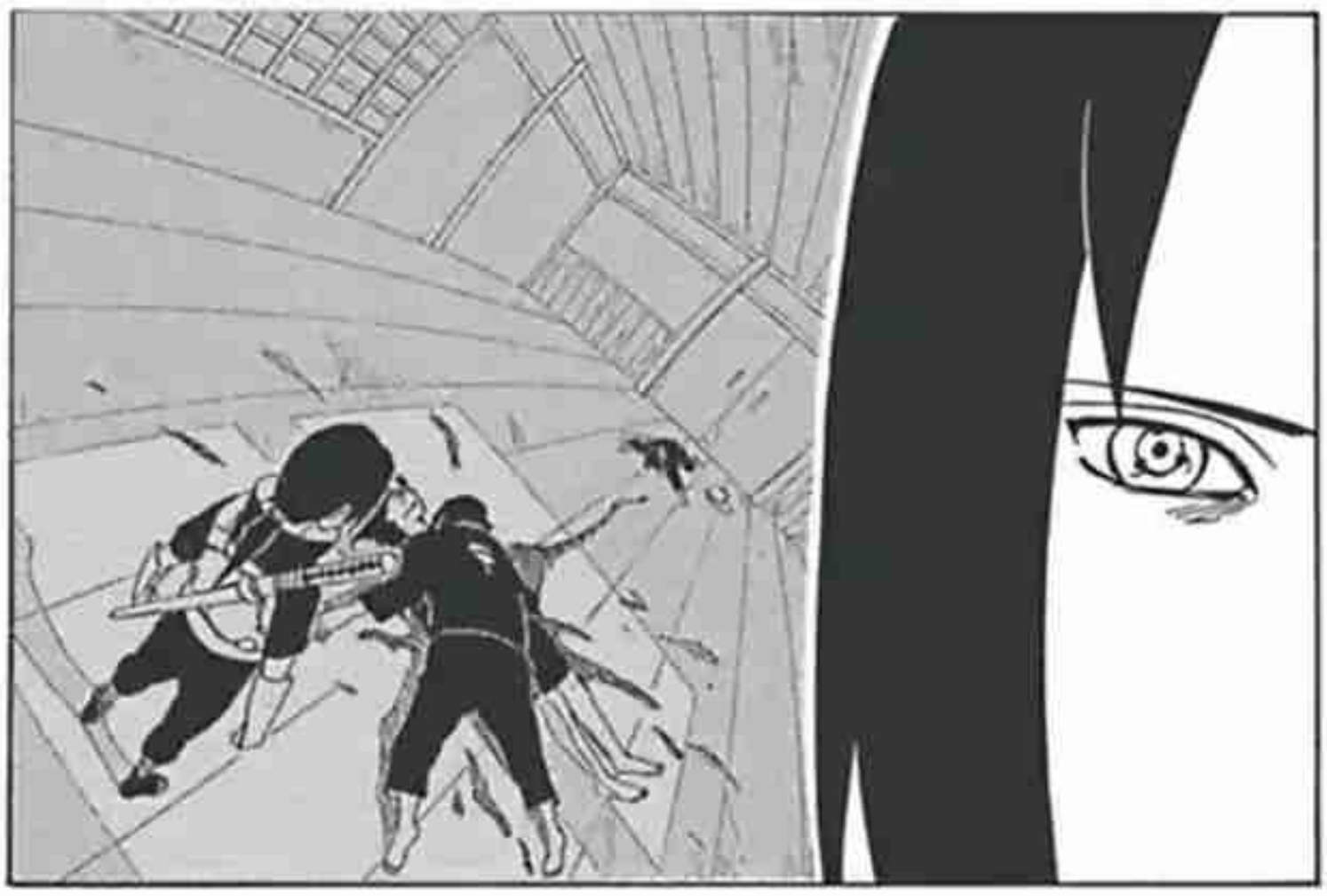
FILLING YOURSELF UP WITH MEDICINES, LEAPING FROM BODY TO BODY...
AND THE WAY YOU COVET THE POWER OF UCHIHA ...IT'S REVOLTING.

AND ANYWAY, I DON'T LIKE YOUR STYLE.
I MEAN, WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?




YOU KEEP TOYING WITH PEOPLE, ALL FOR THIS VAIN AND FRANKLY STUPID CAUSE OF YOURS.
UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE?


...DID YOU...?
WHY...



TO MEASURE MY CAPACITY.

I HAD TO.

THAT'S... THE ONLY REASON FOR KILLING... EVERY-BODY?
MEASURE YOUR CAPACITY ...
THAT'S IT...?

FSS
SH

YOU DIS-GUST ME.

SPAKKAKKA

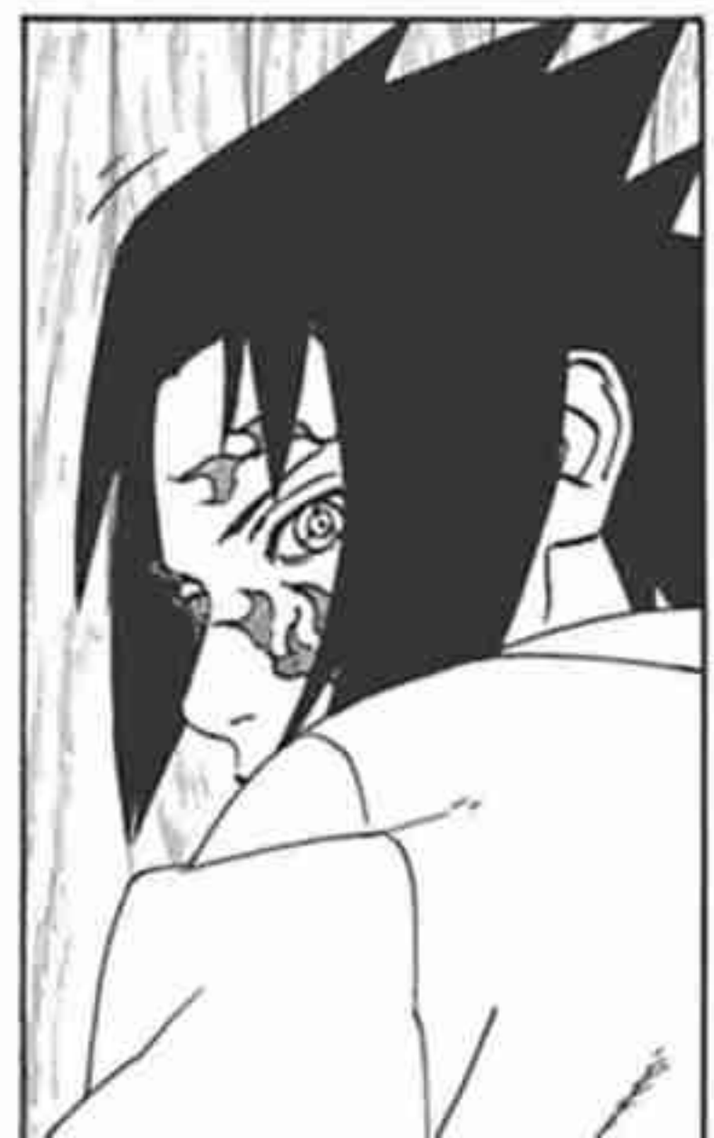
SHA

SPOP

!

CHOK

PLUSH



YOU EXPERI-MENTED END-LESSLY.
TO CHANGE BODIES...

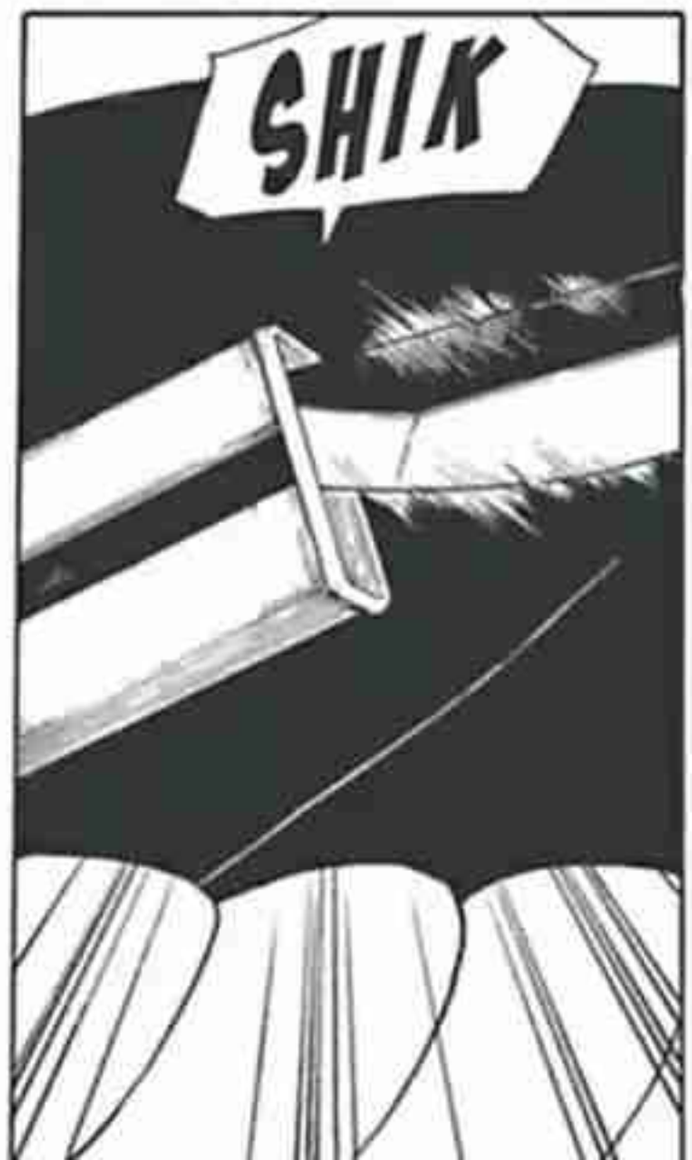
READ THIS WAY
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.
GIVE ME YOUR BODY!!
NOW... SASUKE... YOU ARE MINE...
ZOOSH
PA
KOOH
FINOSH

SKRRRT
HSSSSS!
WUP

ZW
OOF

SHF

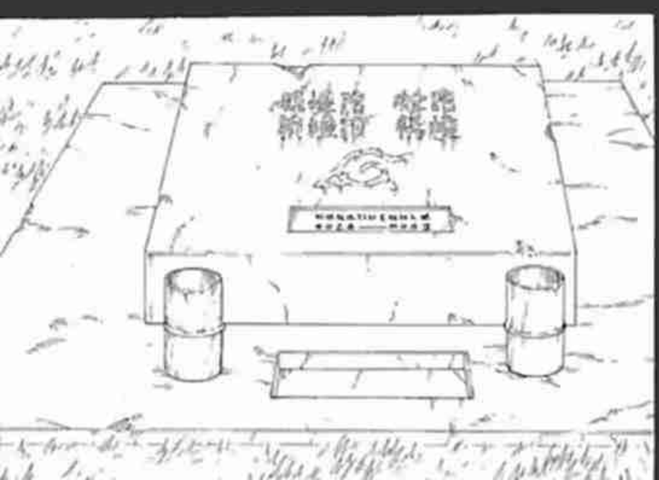
CHINK


SHIK

FZUP

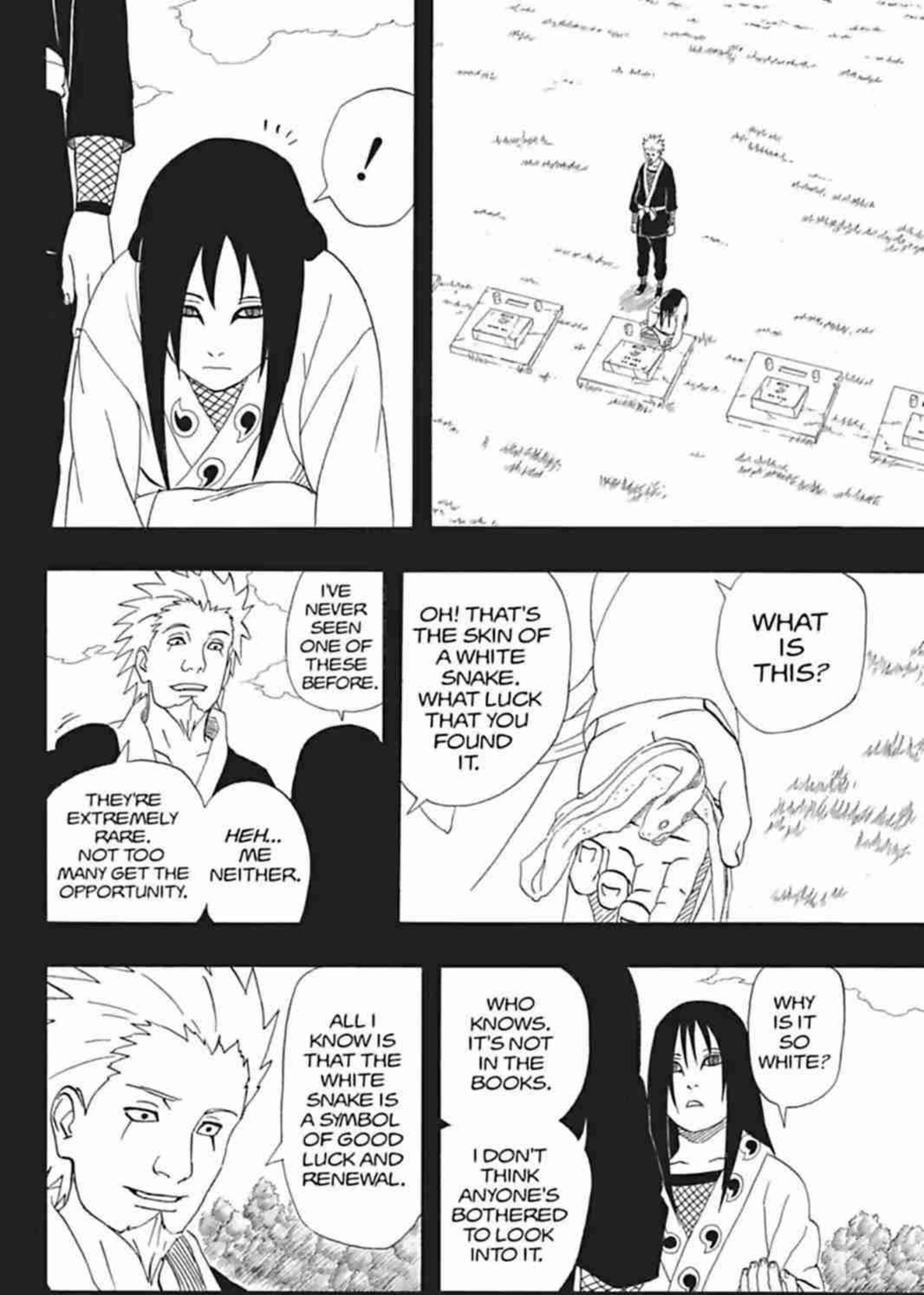
READ THIS WAY
LITTLE REALIZING THAT ACTUALLY ...
STILL, HOPING BEYOND HOPE, IT KEPT ITS EYE ON A BABY BIRD THAT IT NURTURED IN ITS OWN NEST...
SHR RAP
ZWUR
A SNAKE THAT CRAWLED ON THE EARTH DREAMT OF SOARING THROUGH THE SKY...
... KNOWING FULL WELL IT WAS IMPOS-SIBLE.
RR RR
SKIOR
CH
!
...

READ THIS WAY



...
READY TO TAKE TO THE SKY!

...THE SNAKE IS PREY BECAUSE THAT BIRD IS A HAWK...


!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE BEFORE.
THEY'RE EXTREMELY RARE. NOT TOO MANY GET THE OPPORTUNITY.
HEH... ME NEITHER.
OH! THAT'S THE SKIN OF A WHITE SNAKE. WHAT LUCK THAT YOU FOUND IT.
WHAT IS THIS?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE WHITE SNAKE IS A SYMBOL OF GOOD LUCK AND RENEWAL.
WHO KNOWS. IT'S NOT IN THE BOOKS.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S BOTHERED TO LOOK INTO IT.
WHY IS IT SO WHITE?

READ
THIS
WAY

...

GOOD LUCK AND... RENEWAL ...

WHEN WOULD THAT... BE?

SORRY, GOT NO CLUE FOR YOU THERE.

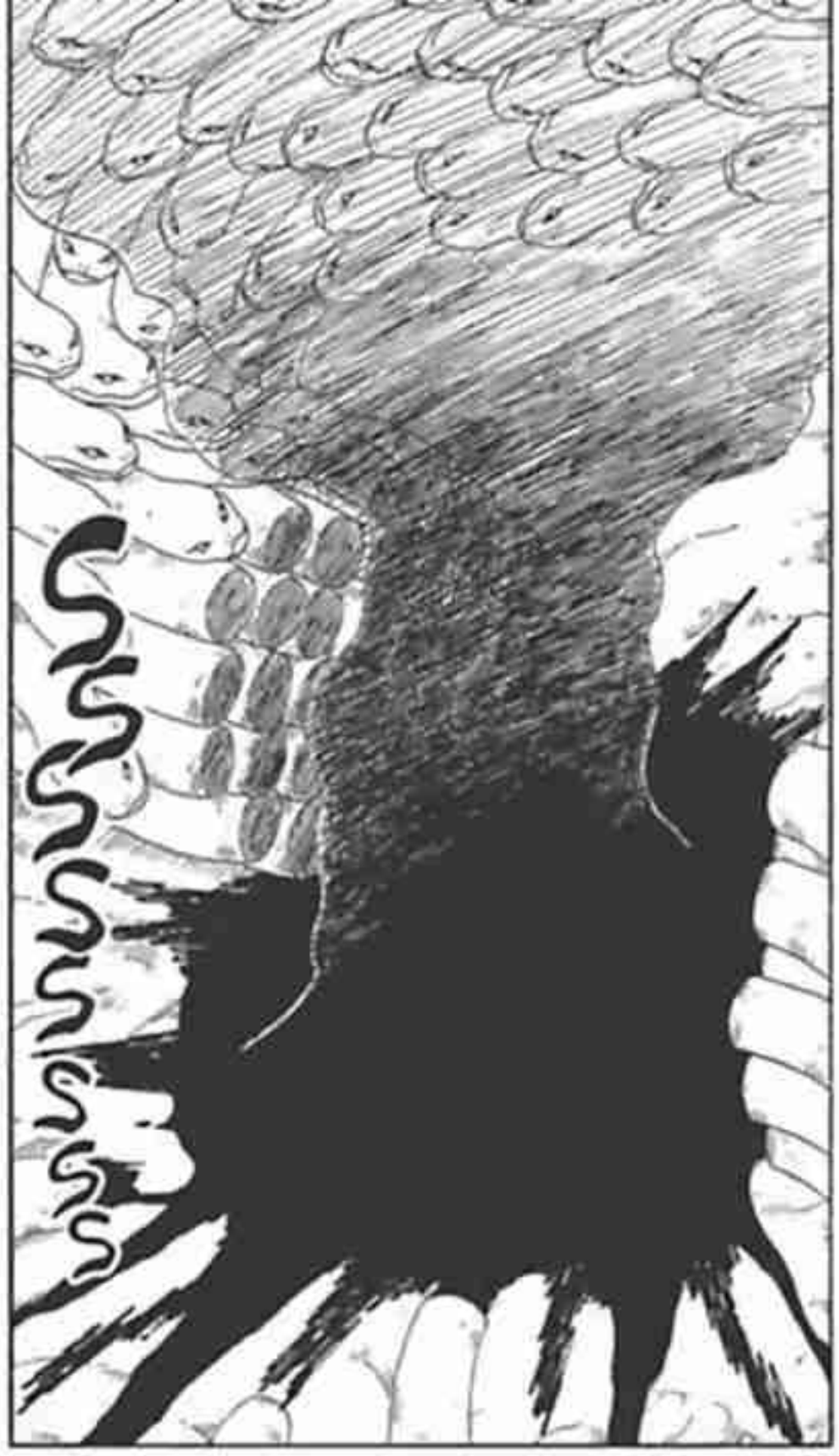
HEY, MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL MEET THEM AGAIN.
IT MUST BE KARMA FOR YOU TO FIND IT HERE BY YOUR PARENTS' GRAVESTONE. MAYBE IT MEANS THEY'VE BEEN REBORN SOMEWHERE?

NARUTO

Number 345: The Ritual...!!

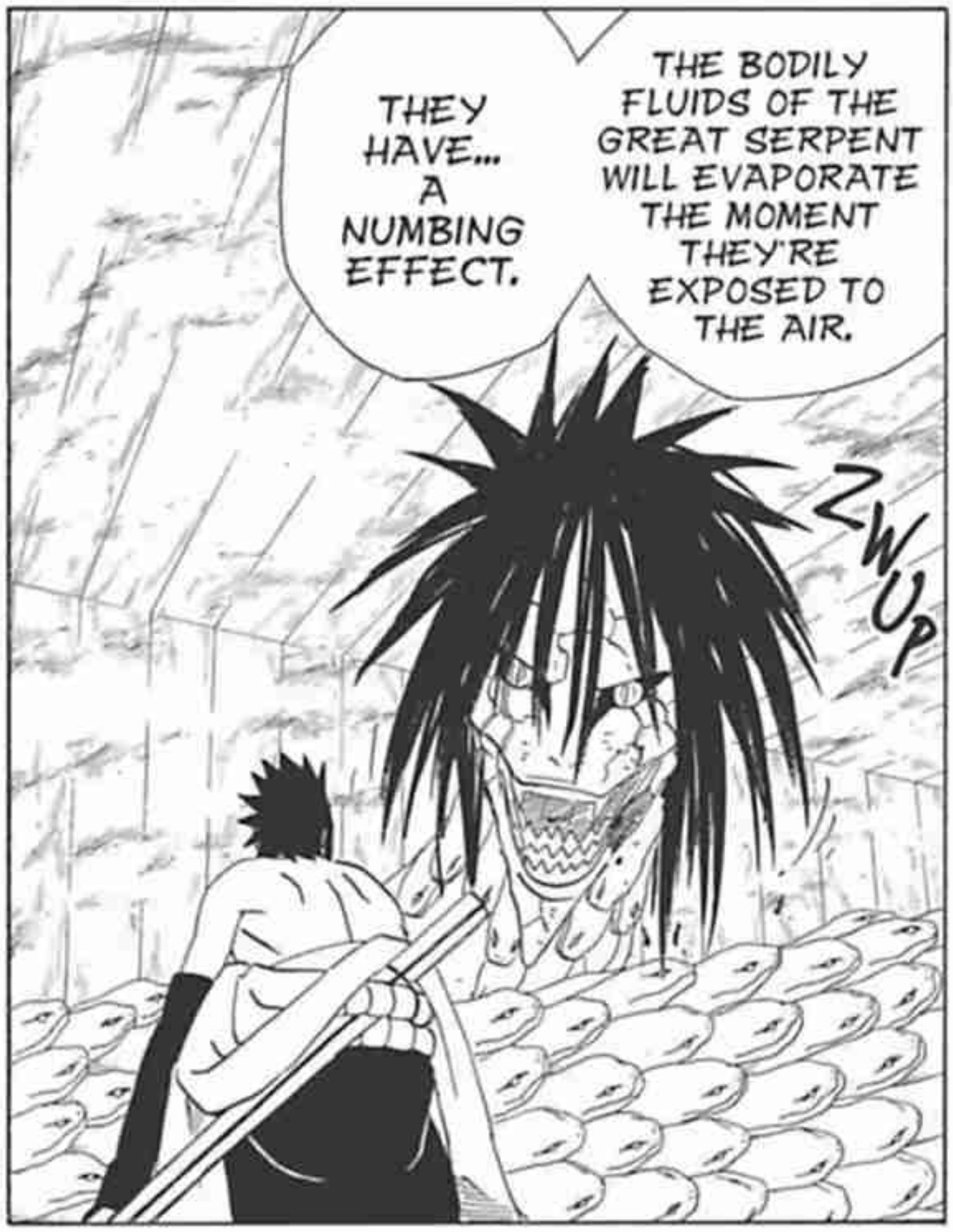
SO THAT'S IT?
THAT WAS DISAP-POINT-ING.

SH OOM
ZWUR

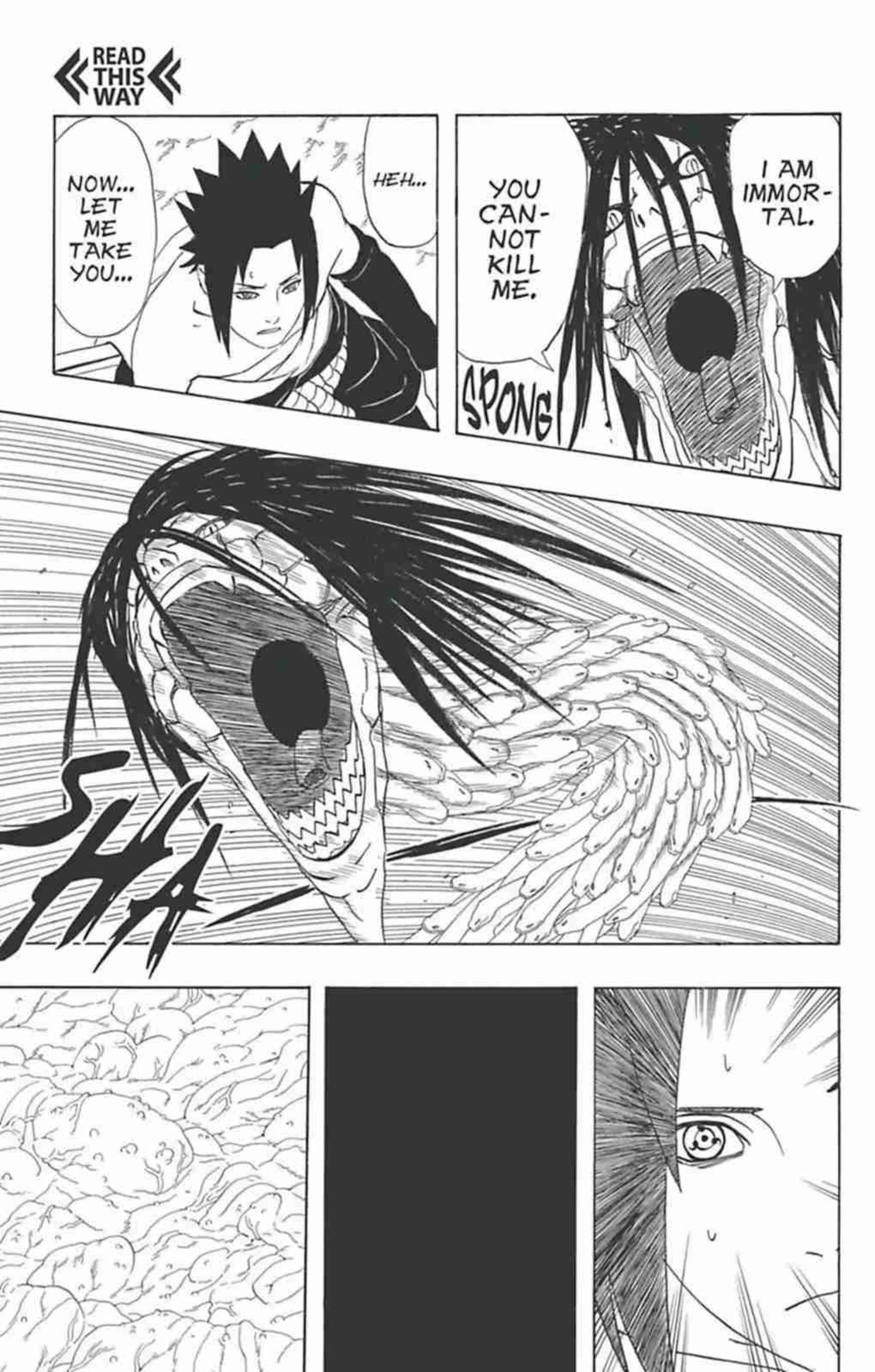

SSSSSSSS

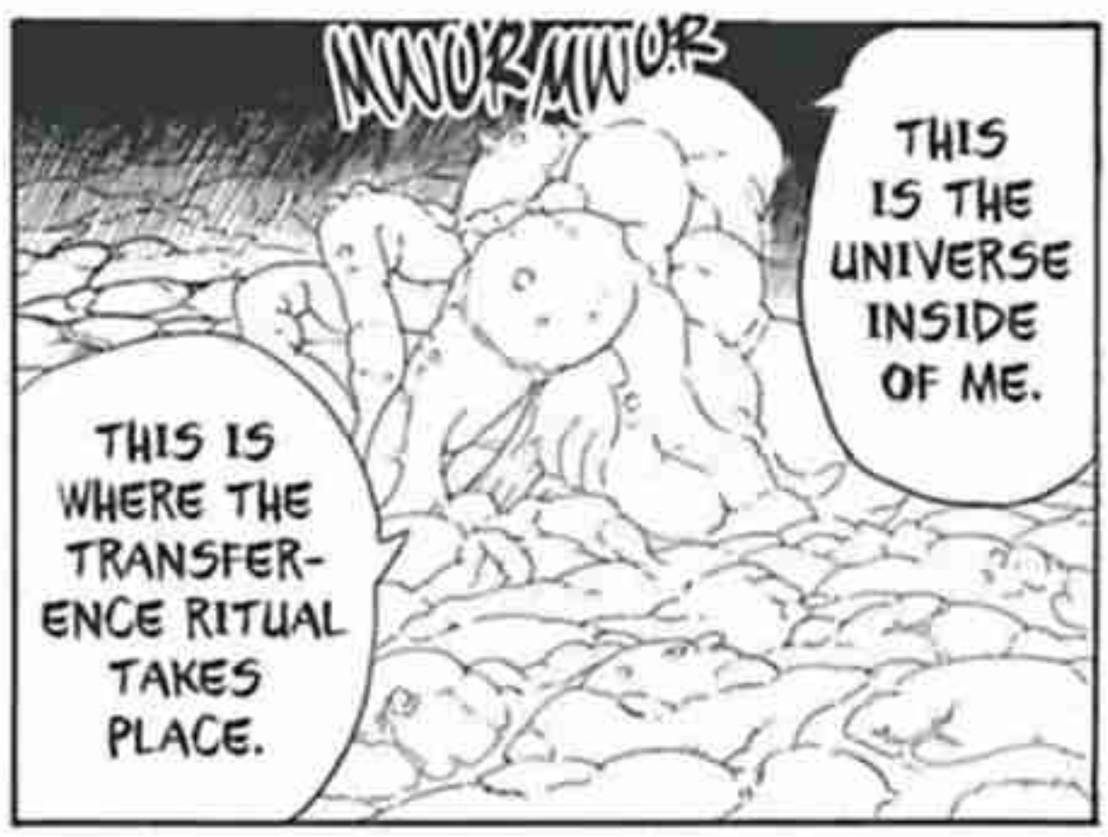
URK...

?
WOOOP

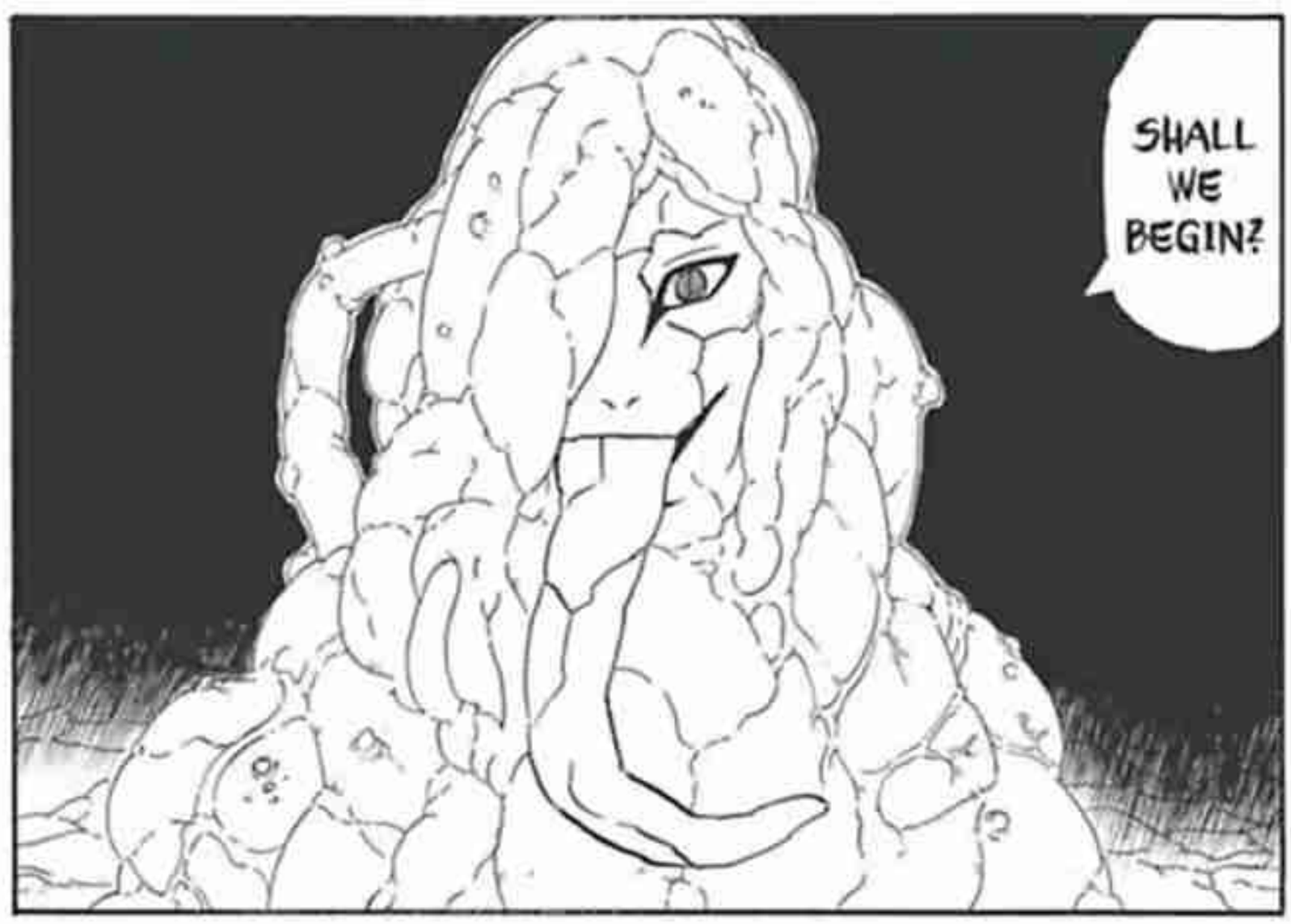

THEY HAVE... A NUMBING EFFECT.
THE BODILY FLUIDS OF THE GREAT SERPENT WILL EVAPORATE THE MOMENT THEY'RE EXPOSED TO THE AIR.
ZWUP

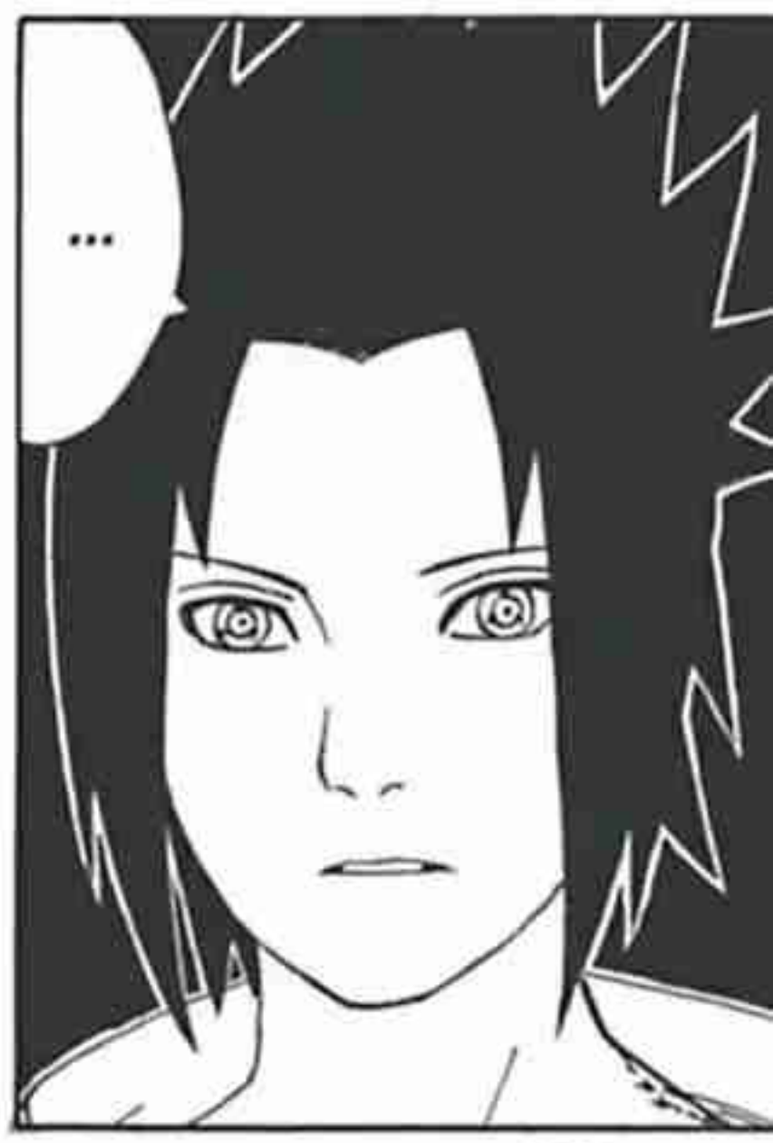
IT'S ABOUT TIME IT TOOK EFFECT.


READ THIS WAY
NOW... LET ME TAKE YOU...
HEH...
YOU CAN-NOT KILL ME.
I AM IMMOR-TAL.
SPONG
SHA

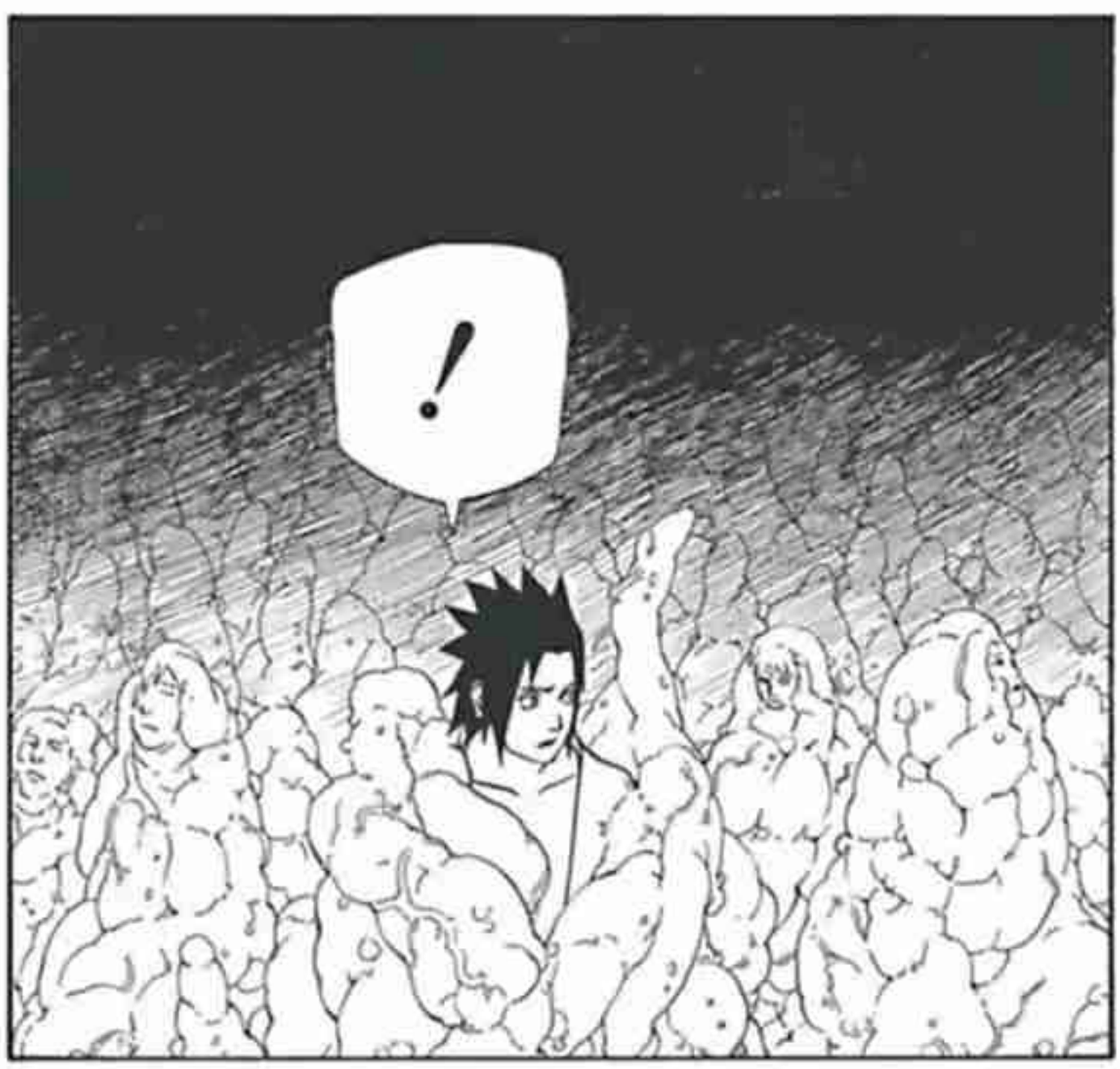

MUTTERMUTTERS
THIS IS THE UNIVERSE INSIDE OF ME.
THIS IS WHERE THE TRANSFER-ENCE RITUAL TAKES PLACE.

...THIS PLACE?
WHAT IS...

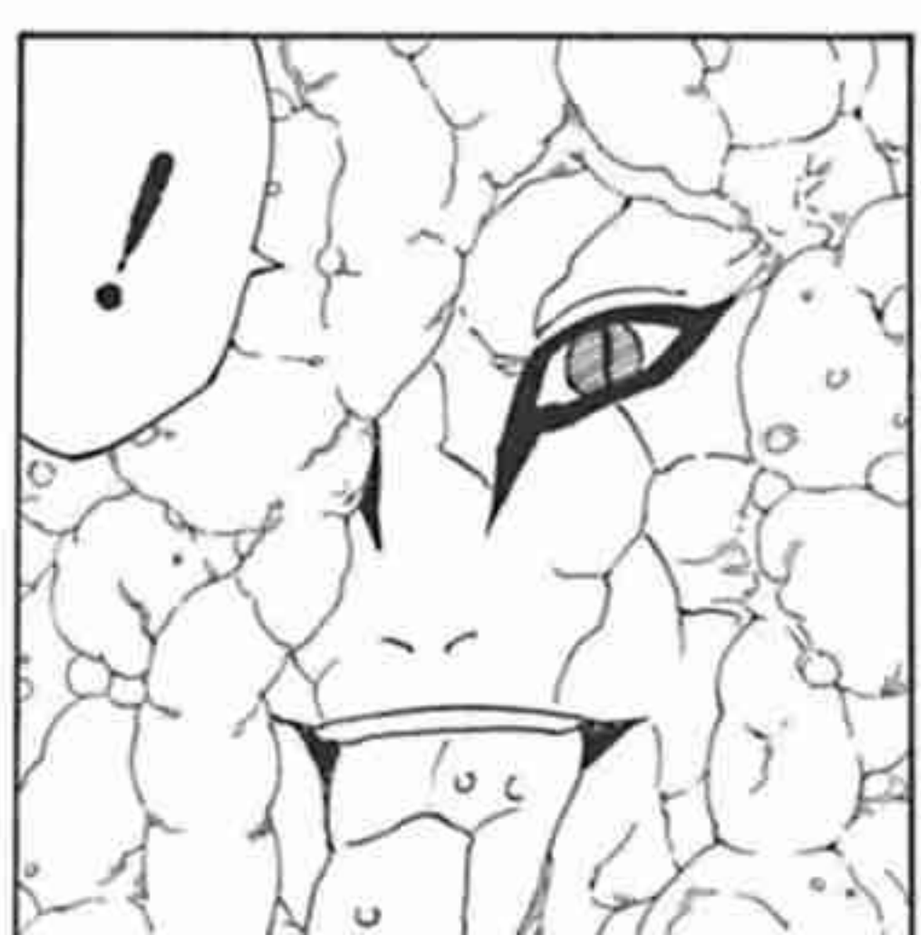

SHALL WE BEGIN?


...

ZWUP
!


!

ZWURR

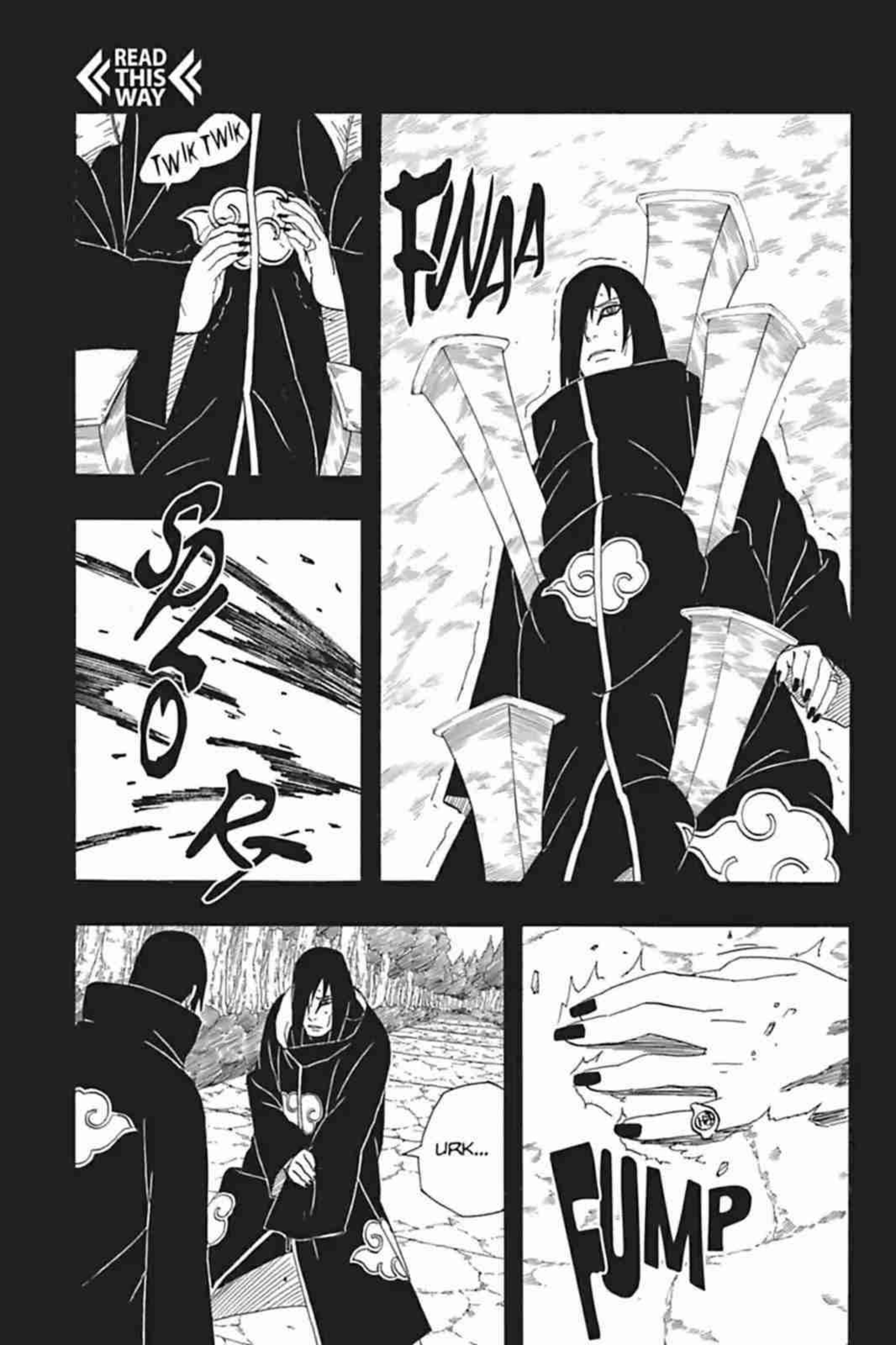

!

HOW CAN THIS BE POSSI-BLE...

HOW CAN THE GENJUTSU PARALYSIS BIND ME...

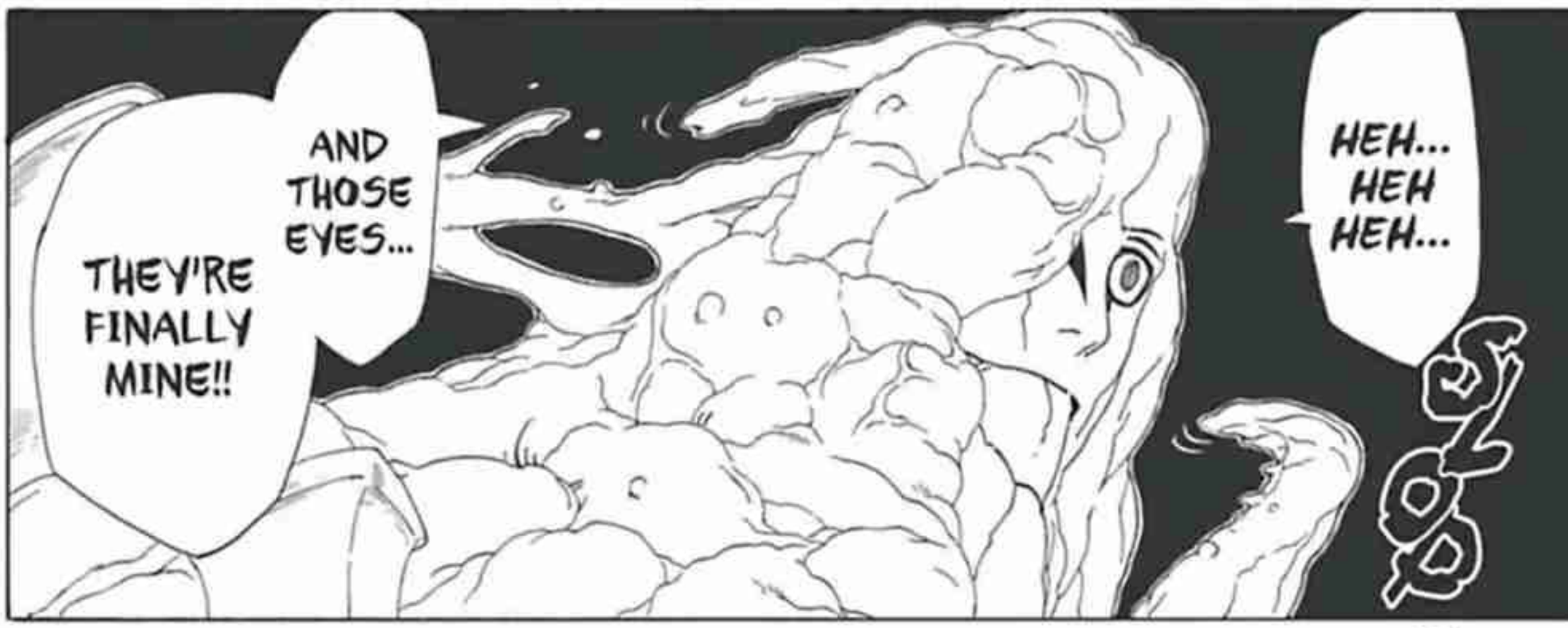
MAGNIF-ICENT.

WHAT STRONG EYES YOU HAVE.


READ THIS WAY
TWIK TWIK
FWAA
URK...
FUMP

OROCHI-MARU, MY EYES...
...CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR JUTSU.

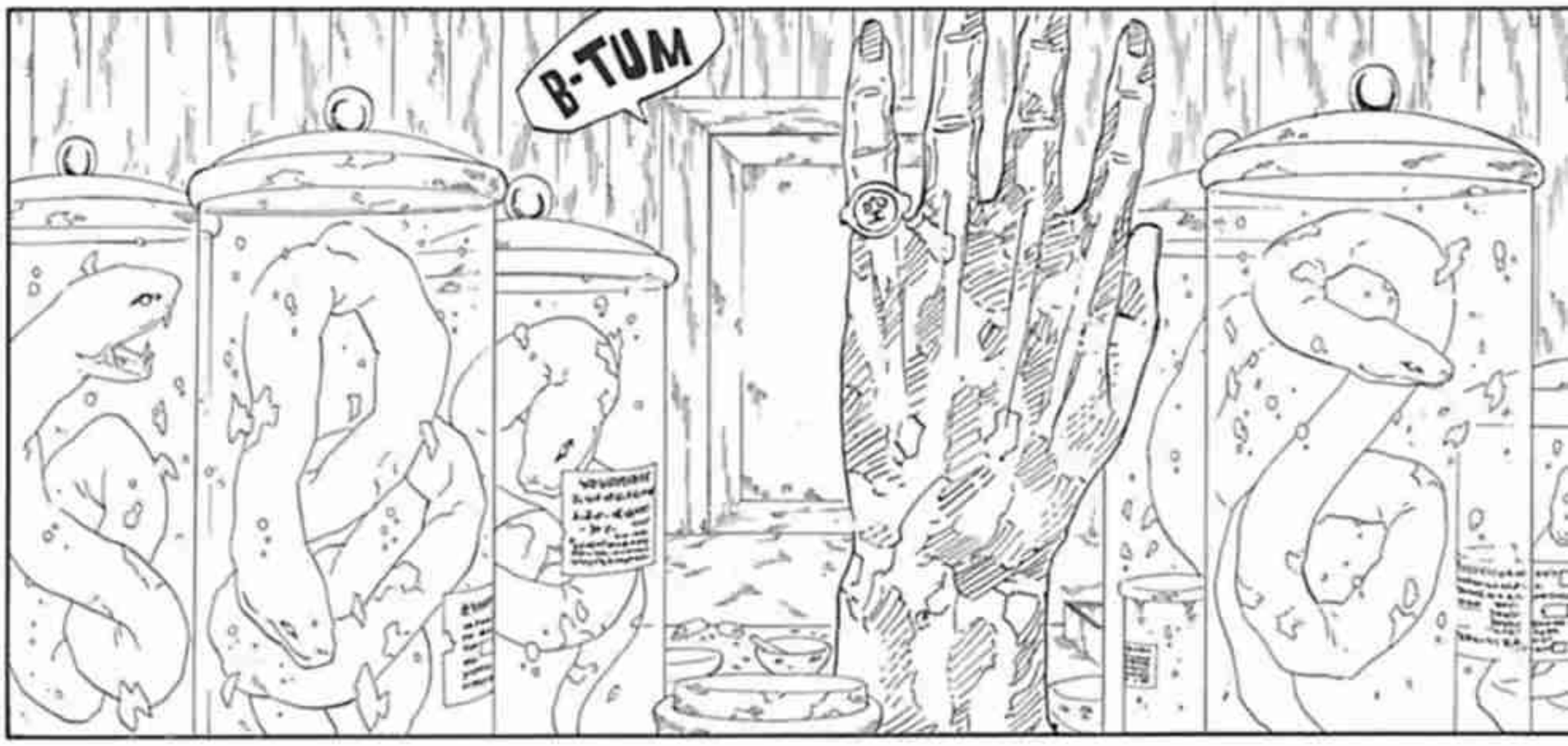
IT'S AS IF I'M LIVING THAT MOMENT ALL OVER...

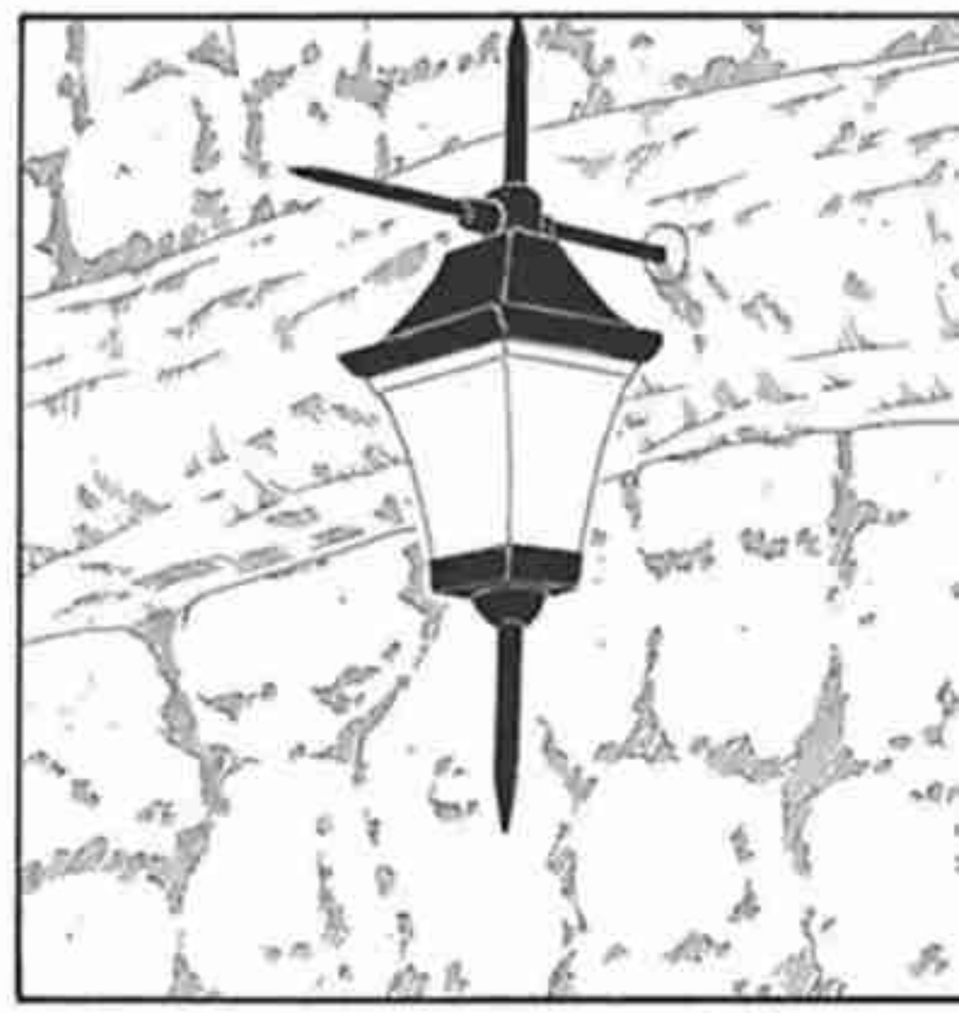

HEH... HEH HEH...
AND THOSE EYES...
THEY'RE FINALLY MINE!!

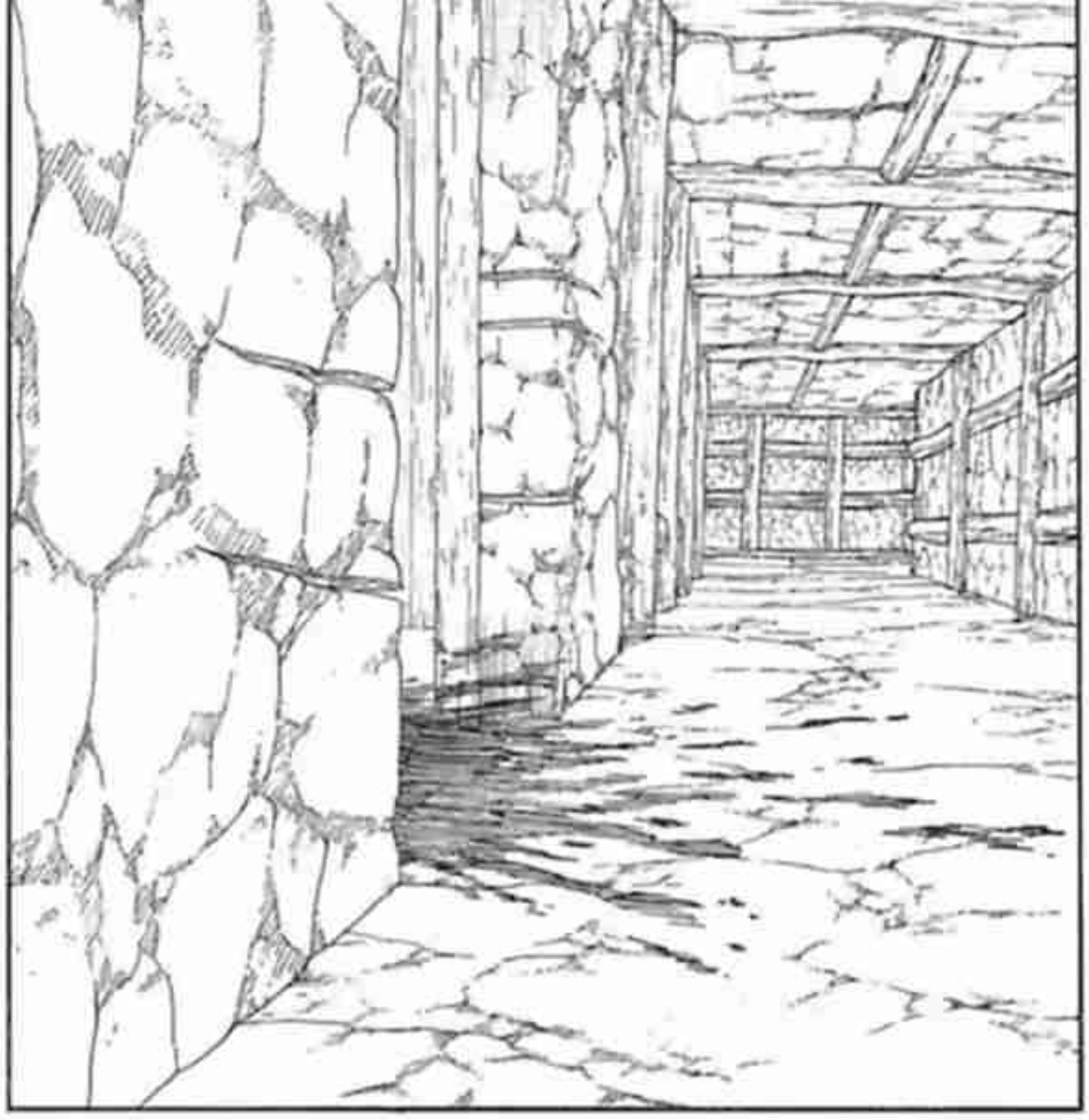
READ THIS WAY
TOMOR-ROW...
OR BETTER, TODAY. THE SOONER WE PERFORM THE RITUAL, THE BETTER.
NO MEDICINE WILL HELP HIM NOW.
I CAN'T IMAGINE SASUKE WILL GO ALONG WITHOUT A FUSS...
...

STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE HE COULD DO A THING ABOUT IT. NOT AGAINST THAT RITUAL...
HEH...

G-CHAK


B-TUM





!

ZOOSH

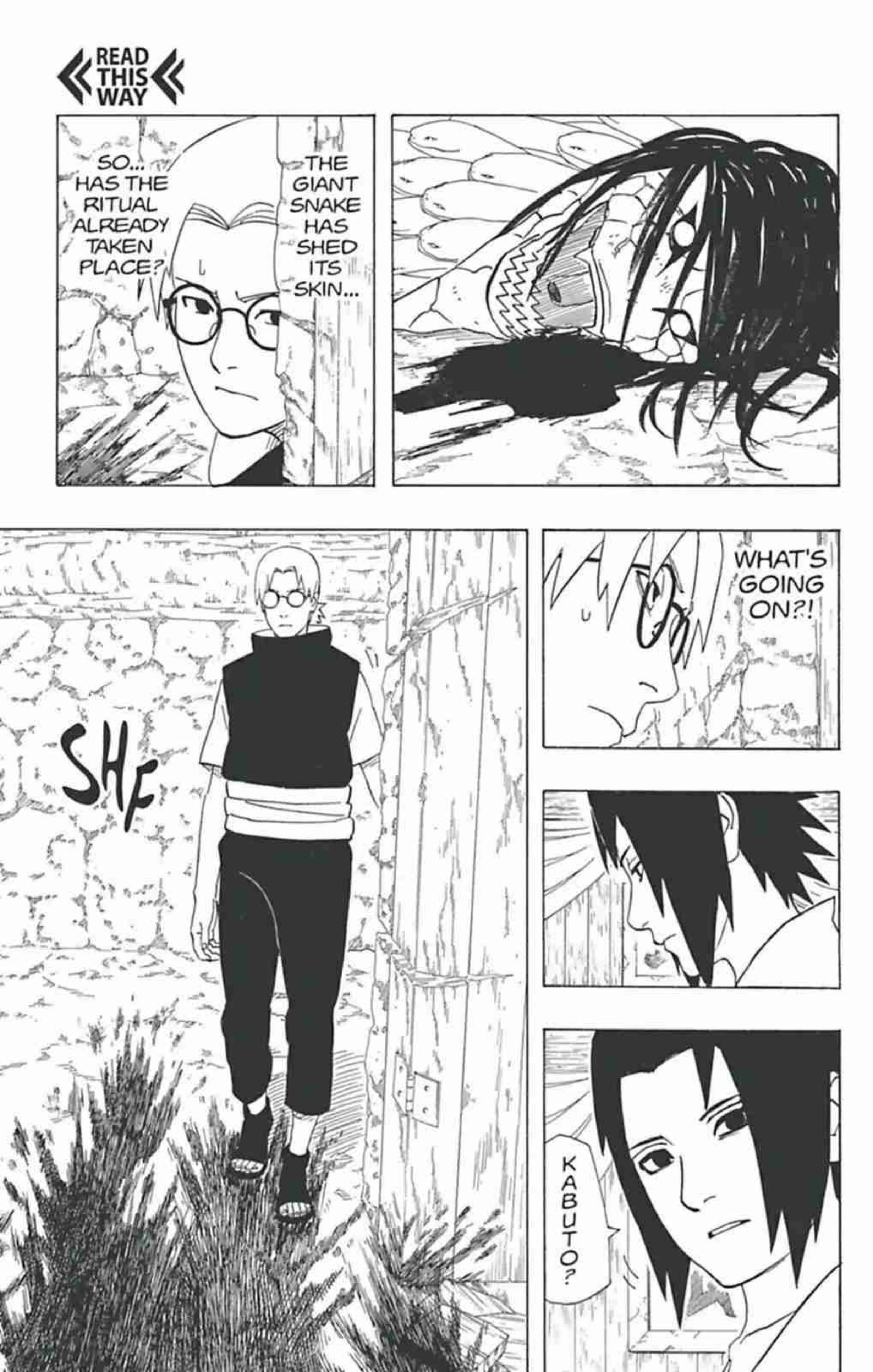
...

SST

SKF

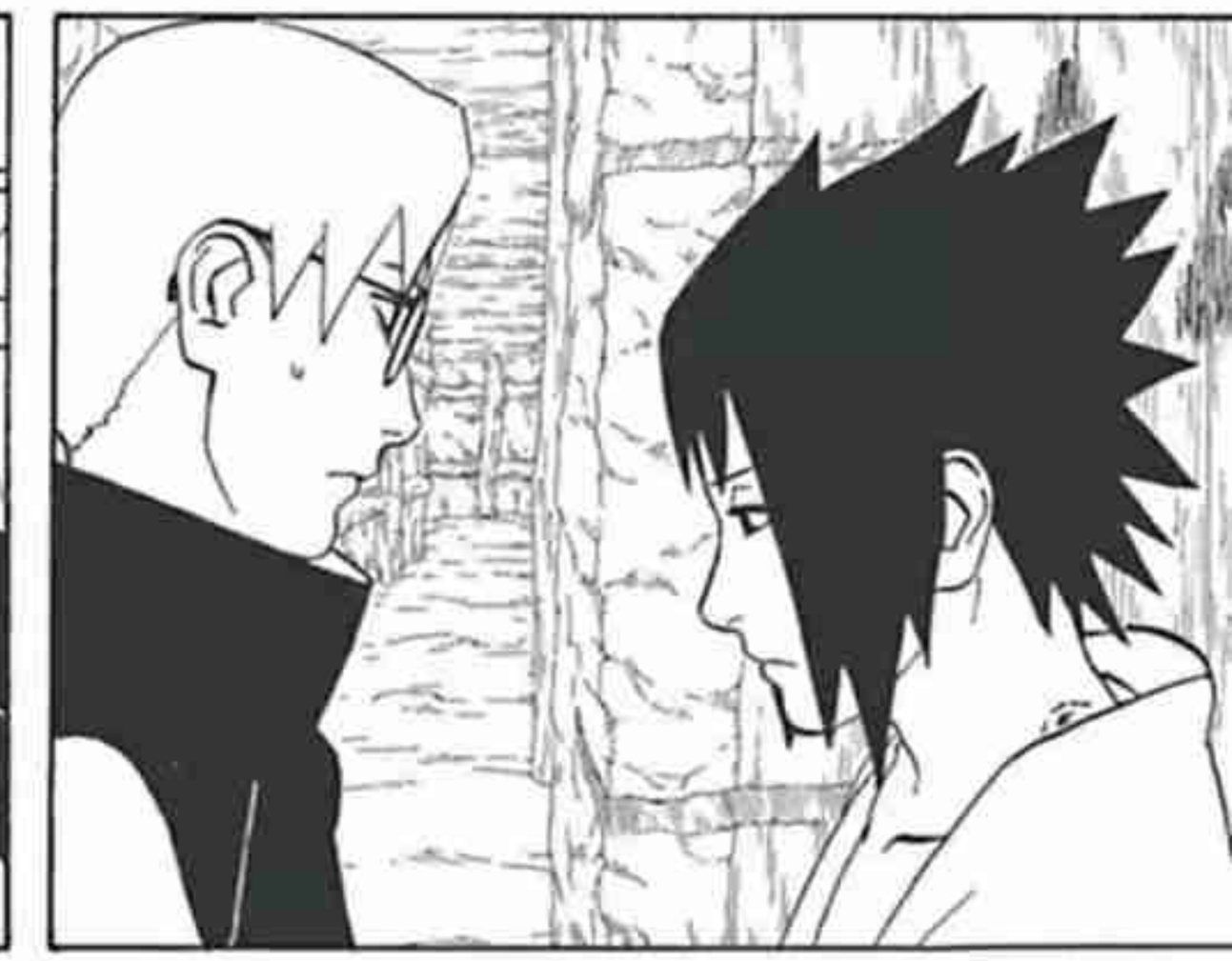
!

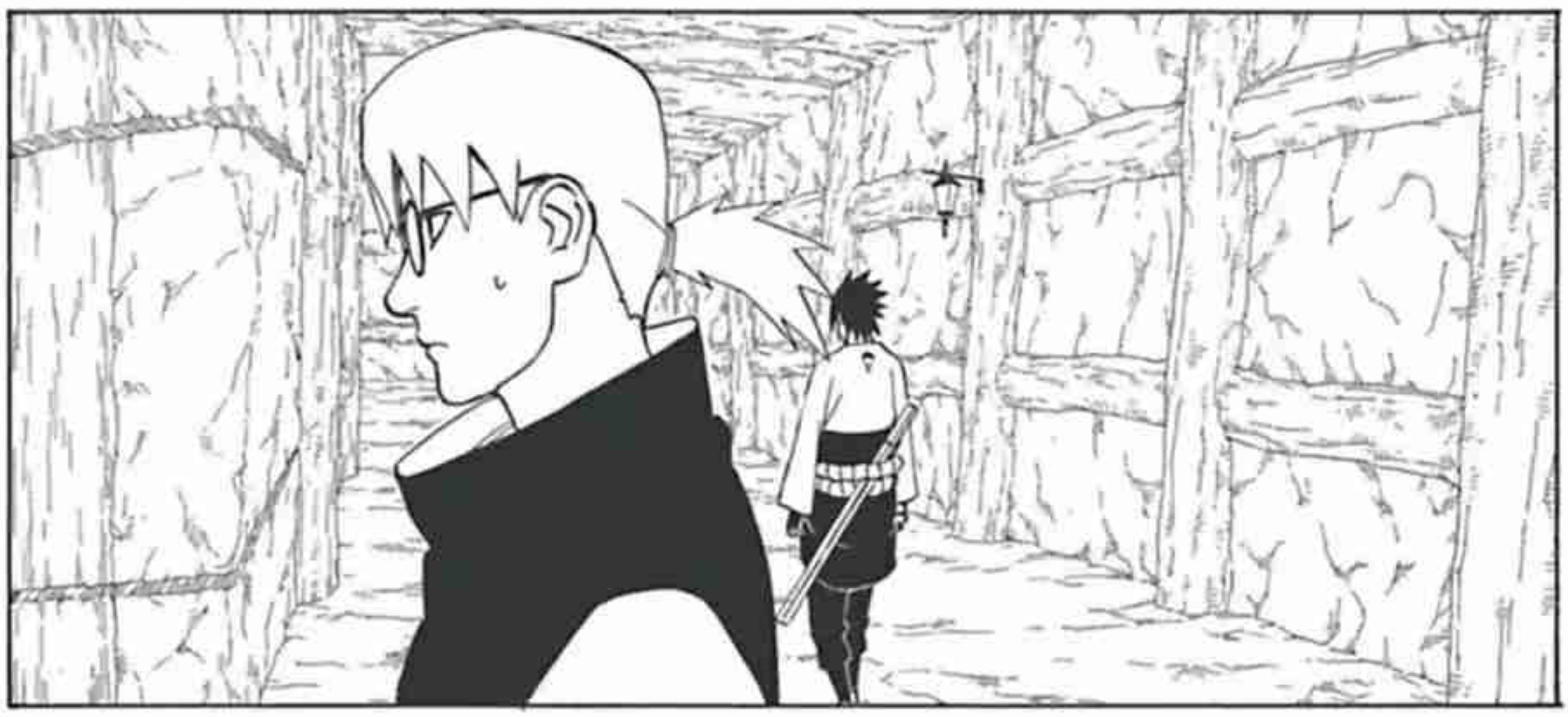
WHY IS HE HERE?!


READ THIS WAY
SO... HAS THE RITUAL ALREADY TAKEN PLACE?
THE GIANT SNAKE HAS SHED ITS SKIN...
SHE
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
KABUTO?

ドガ!

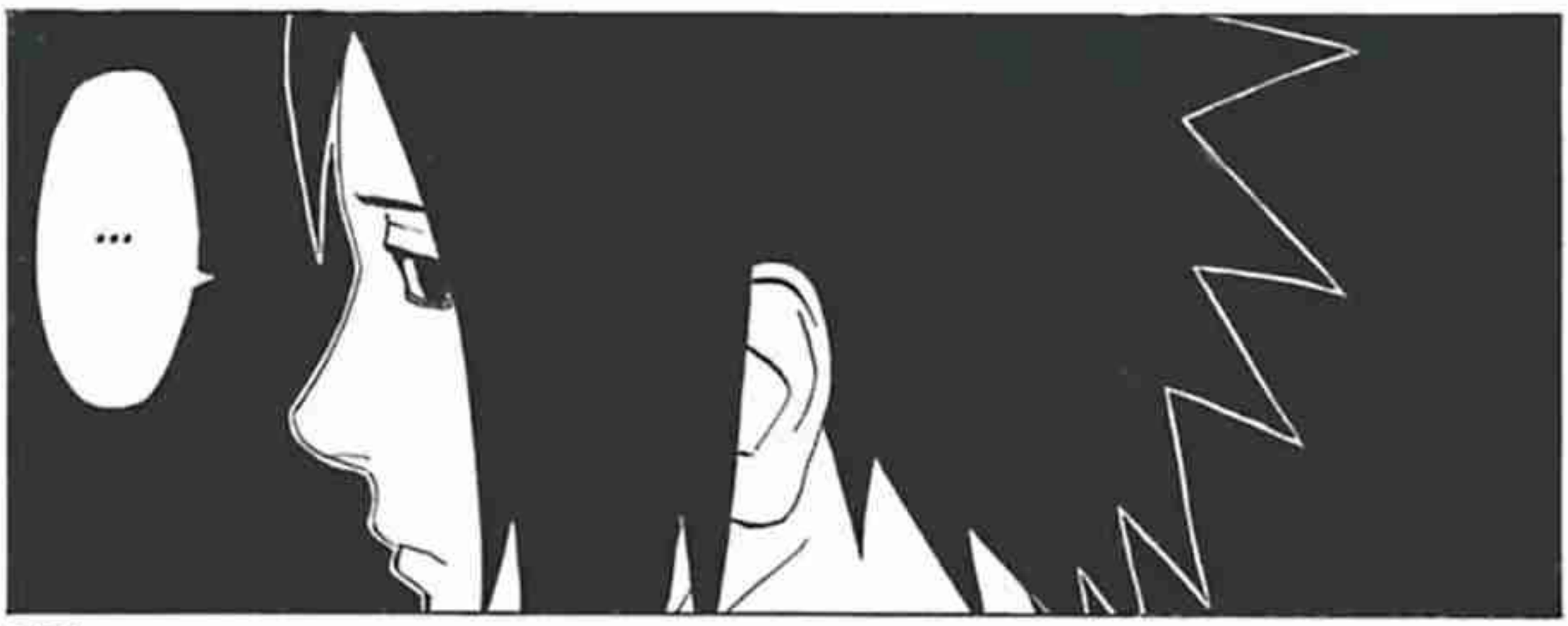
SST





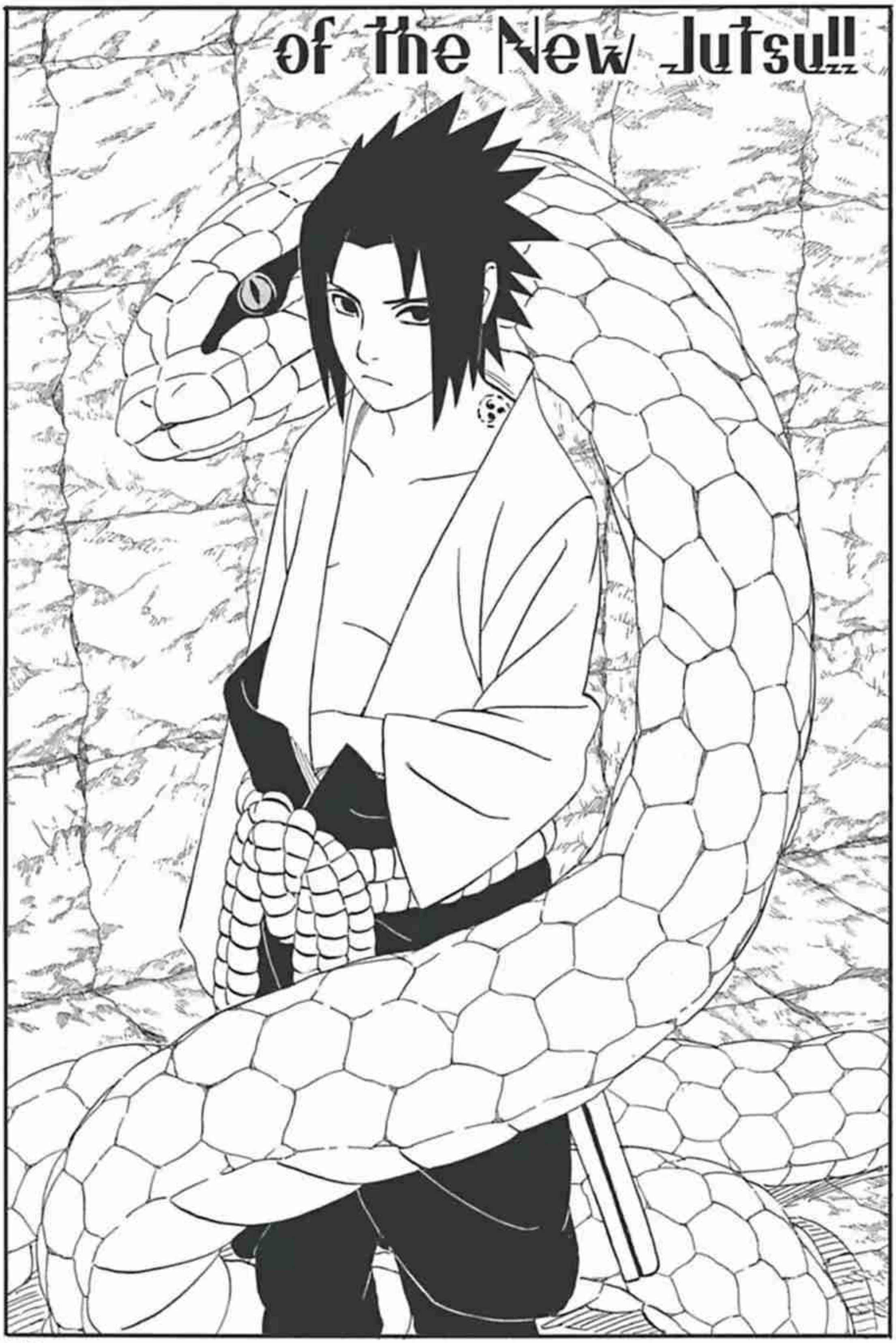
WHICH...

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

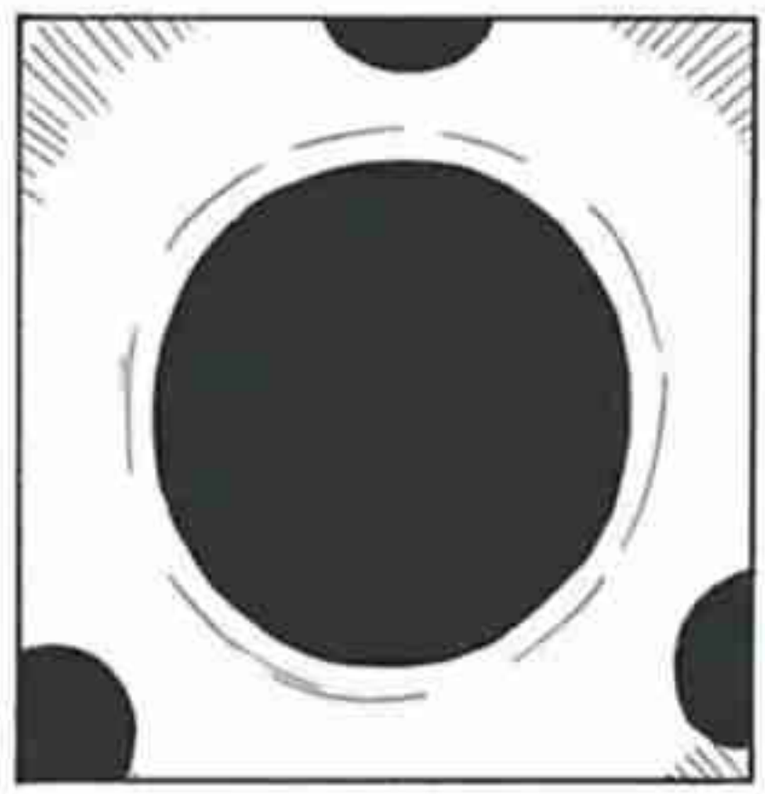

...

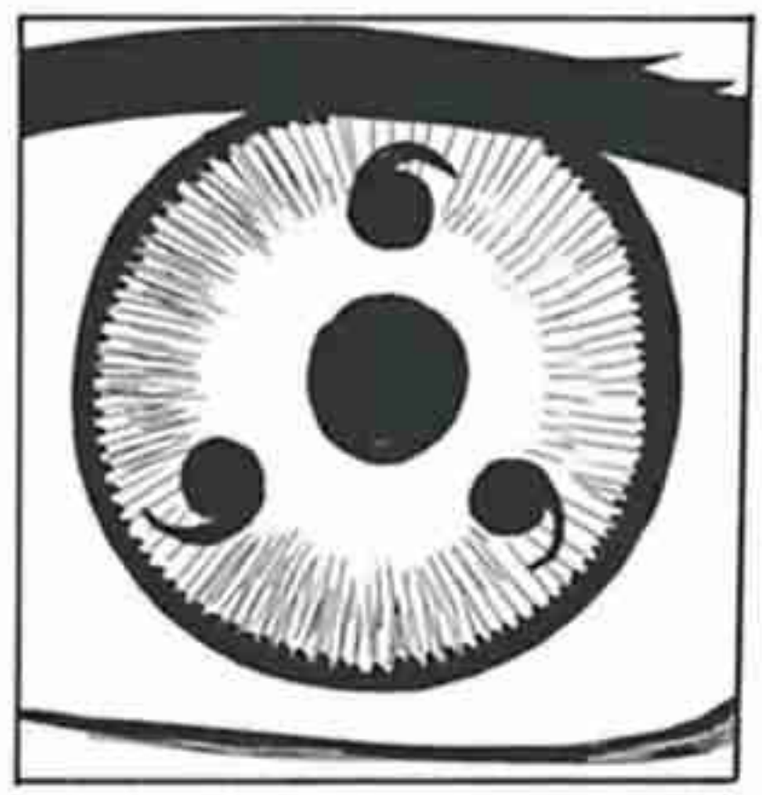
NARUTO

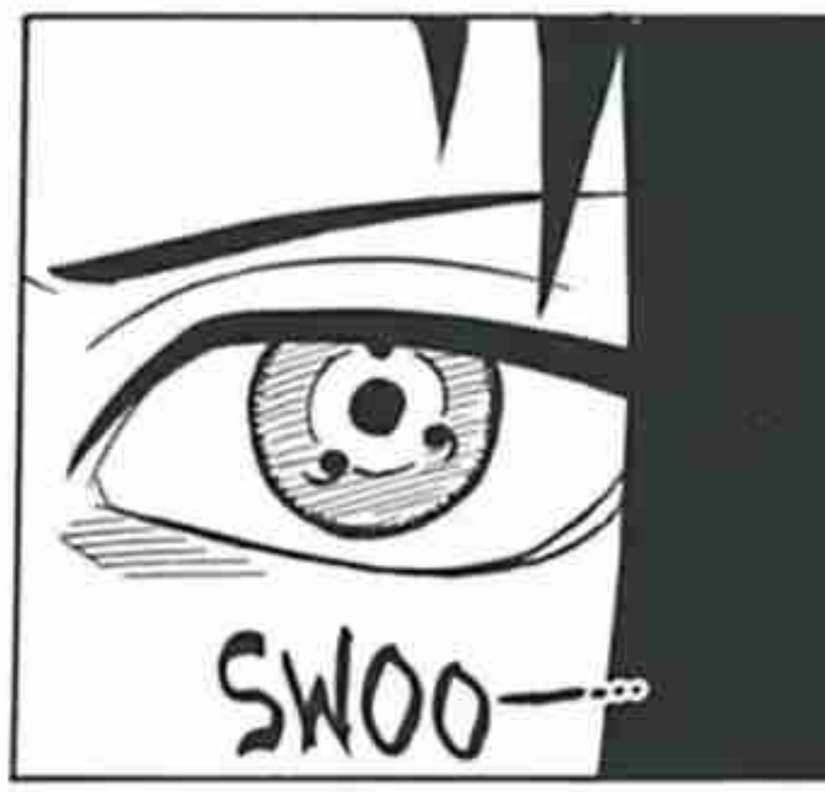
Number 346: The Secret of the New Jutsu!!

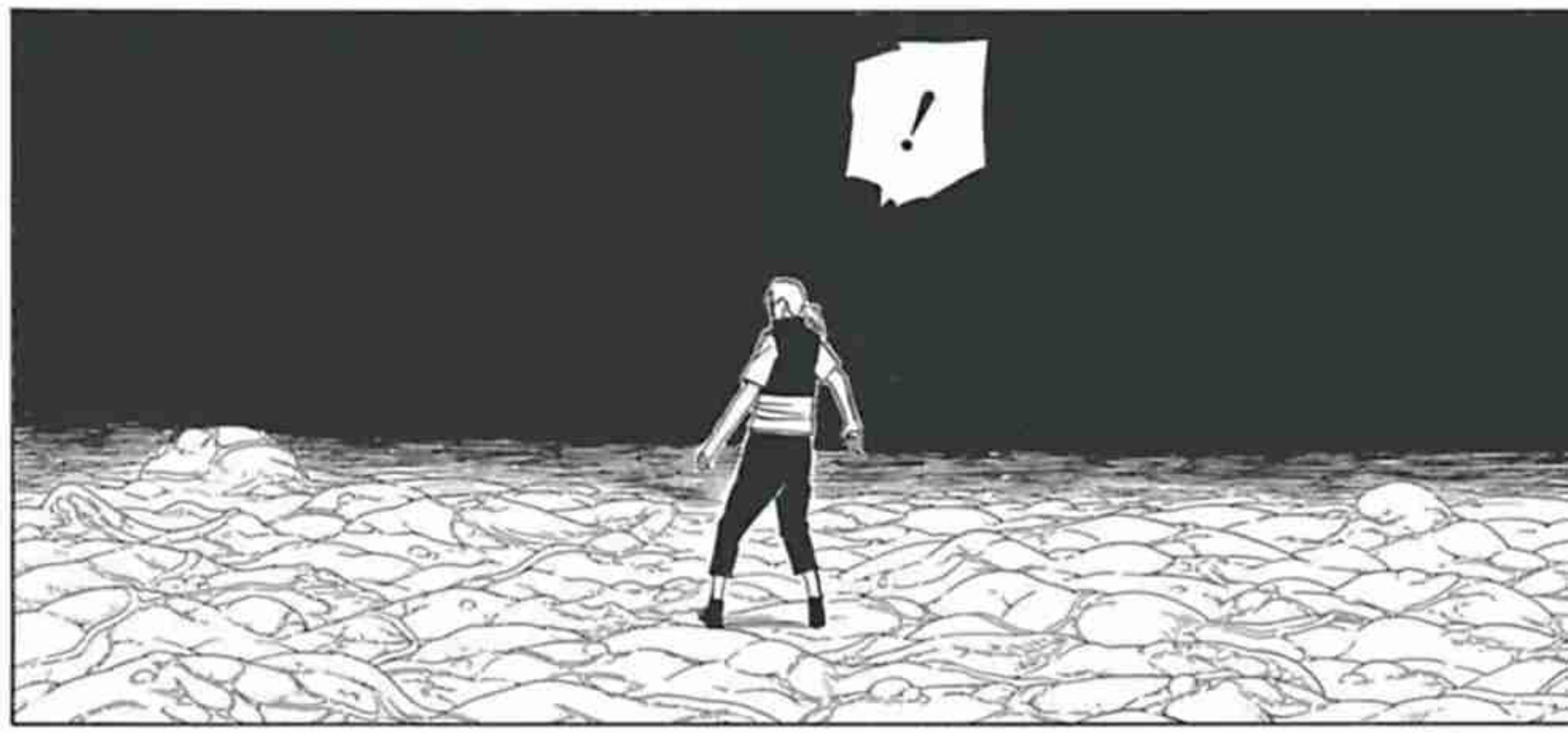


WHICH DO YOU THINK?






SWOO—...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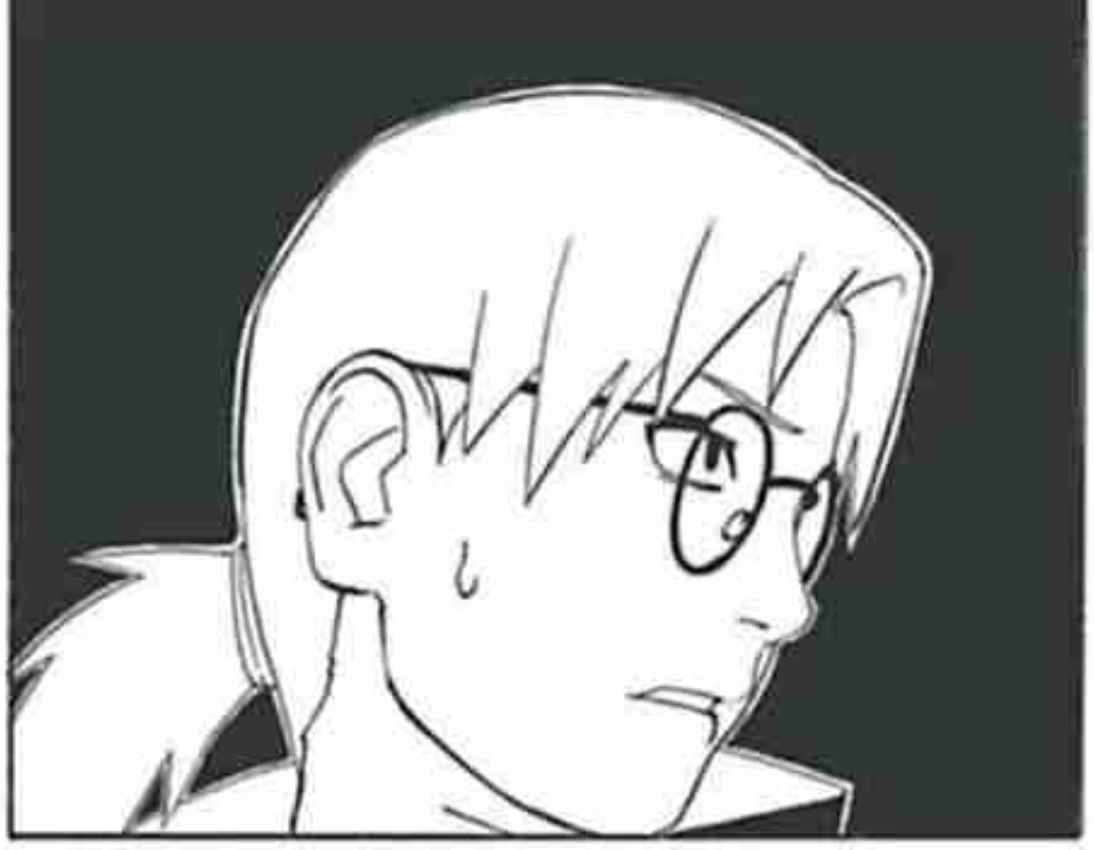
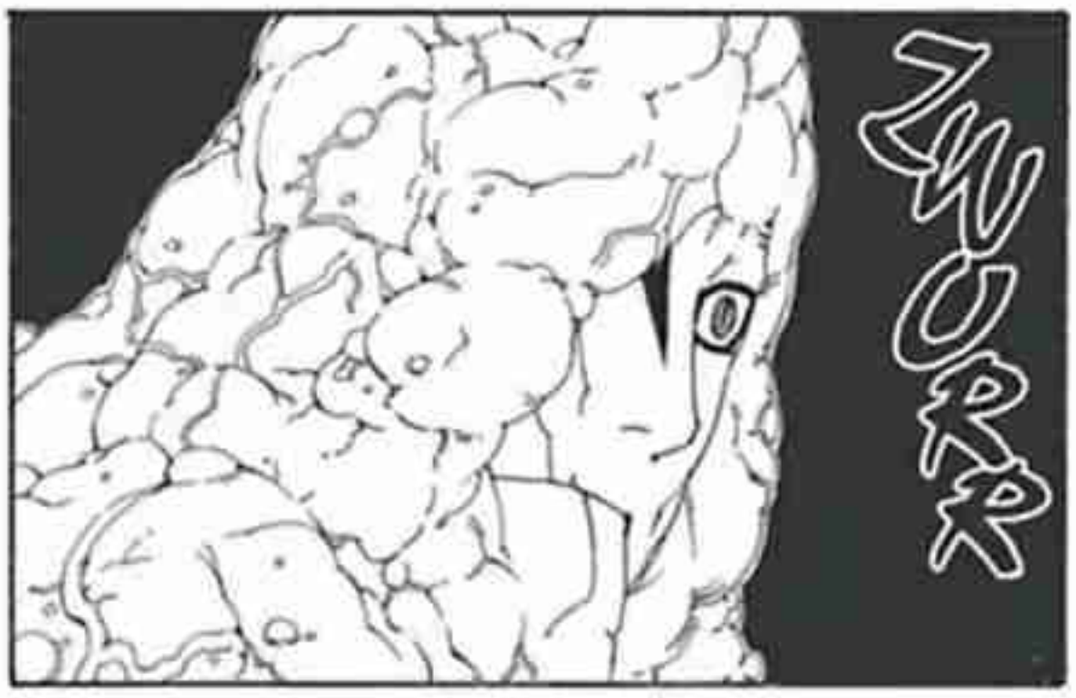
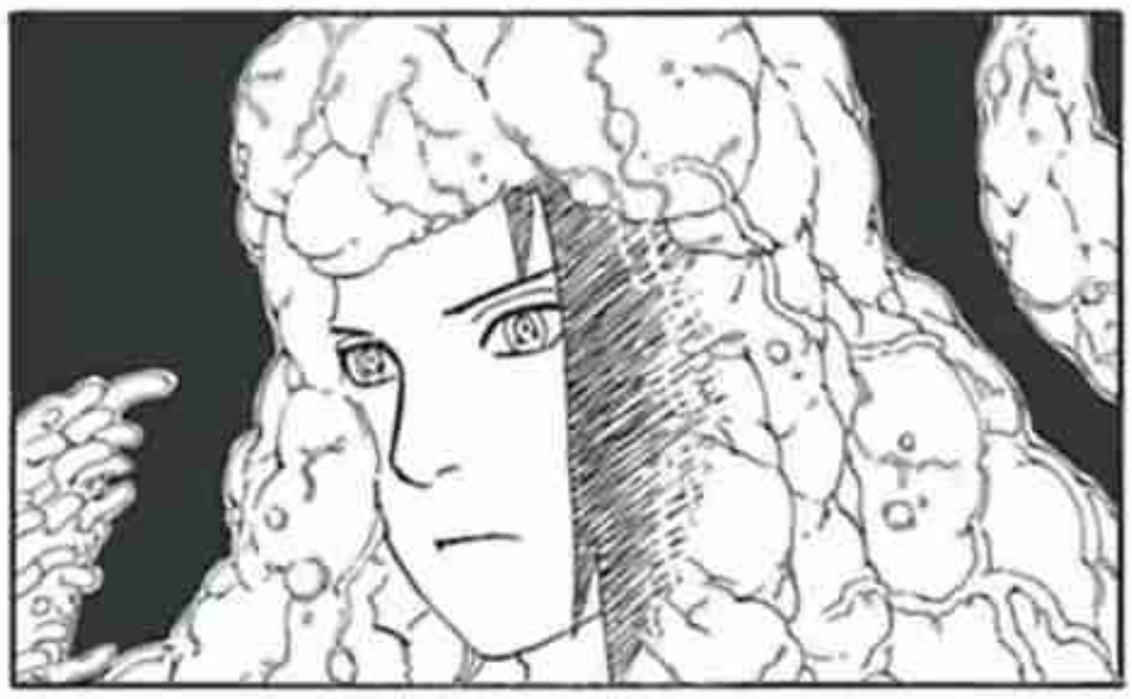
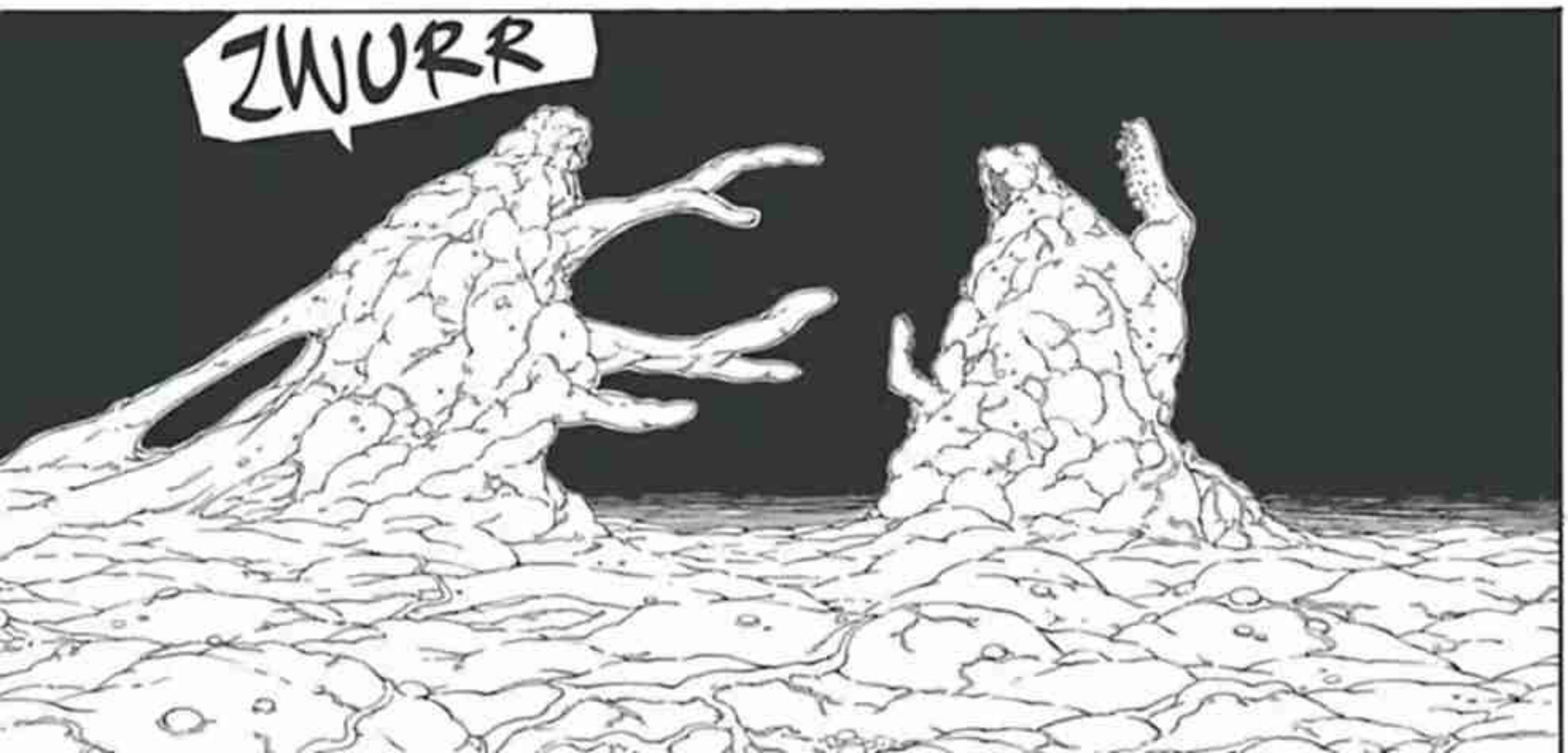


!

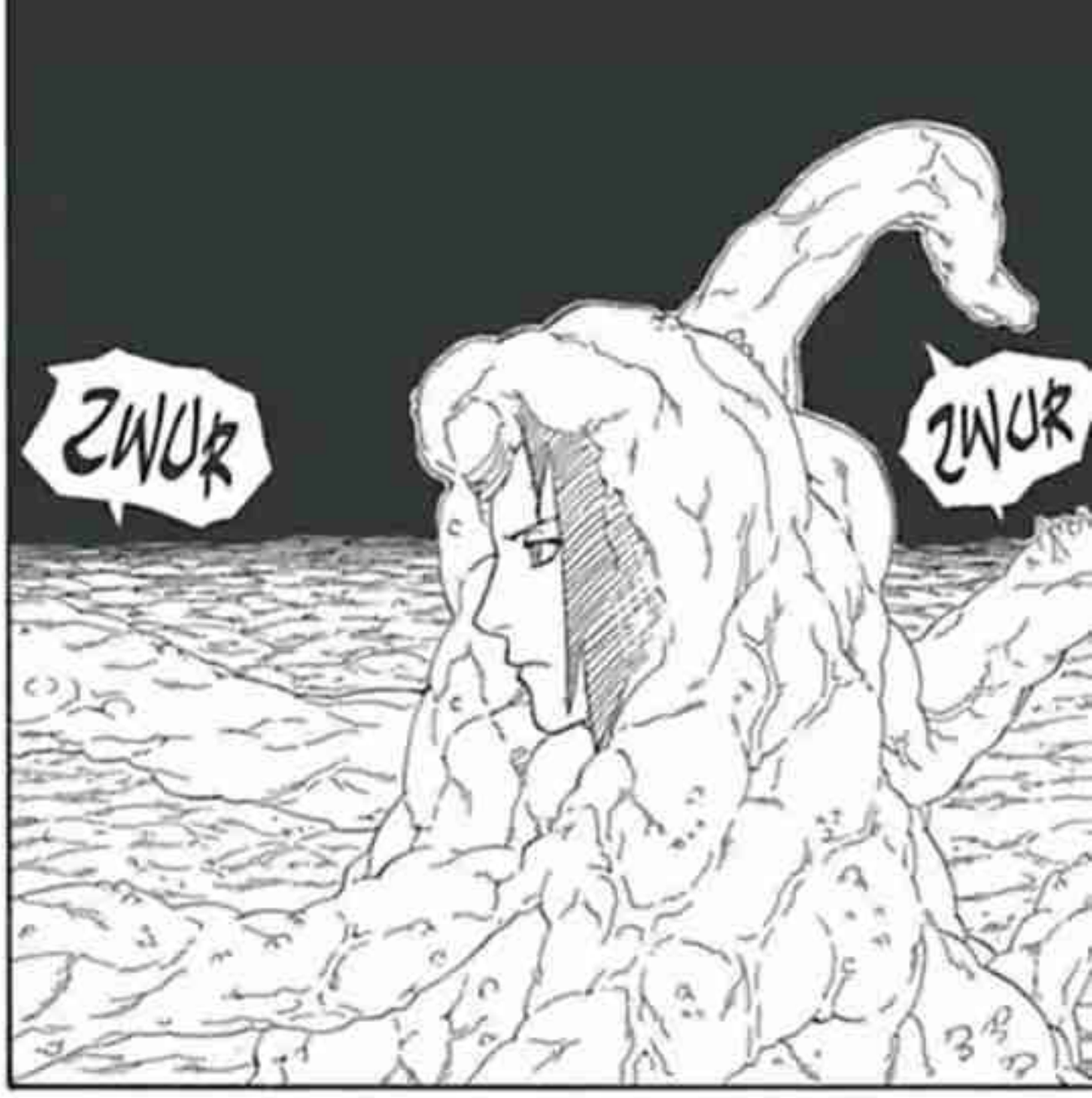
ZWUR
IT'S THE RITUAL...


ZWURR




ZWURR

ZWURR

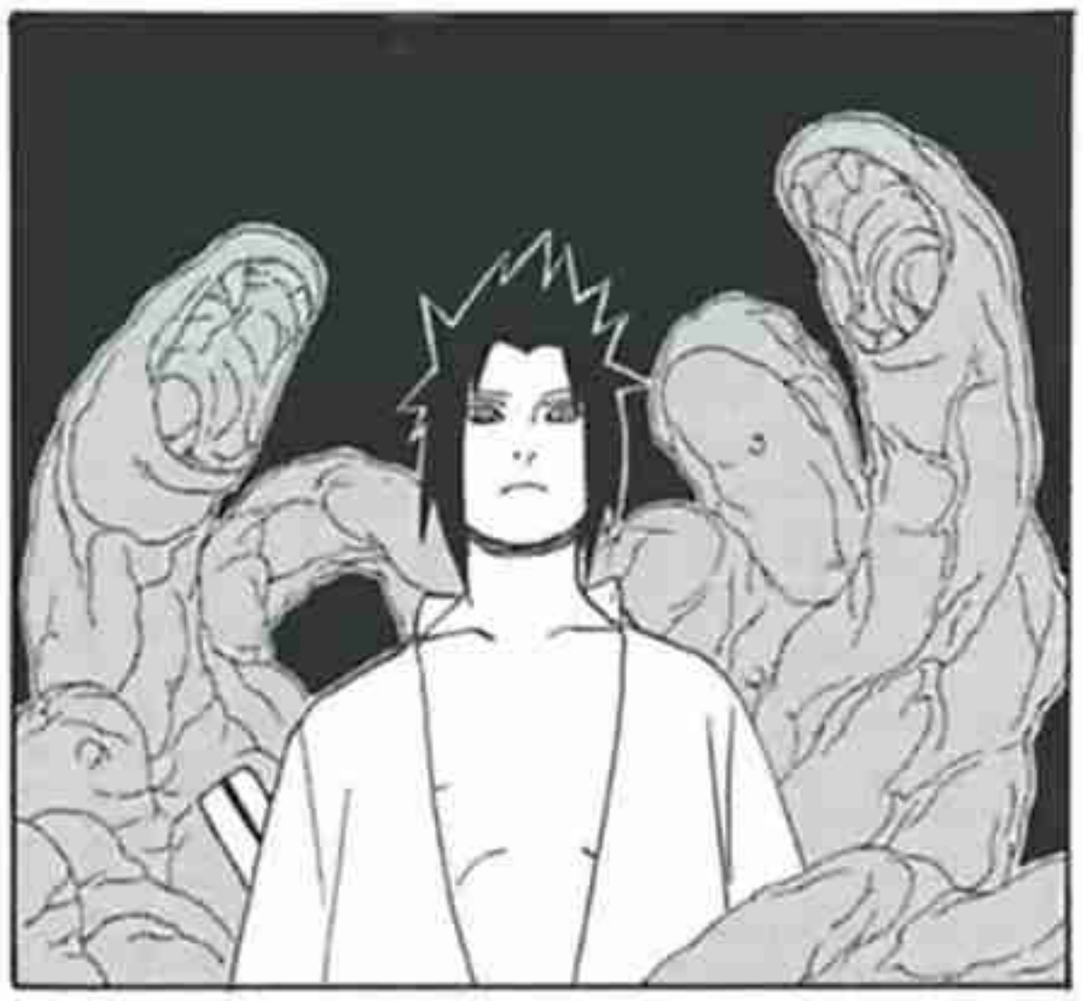

ZWUR
ZWUR

SHOOM

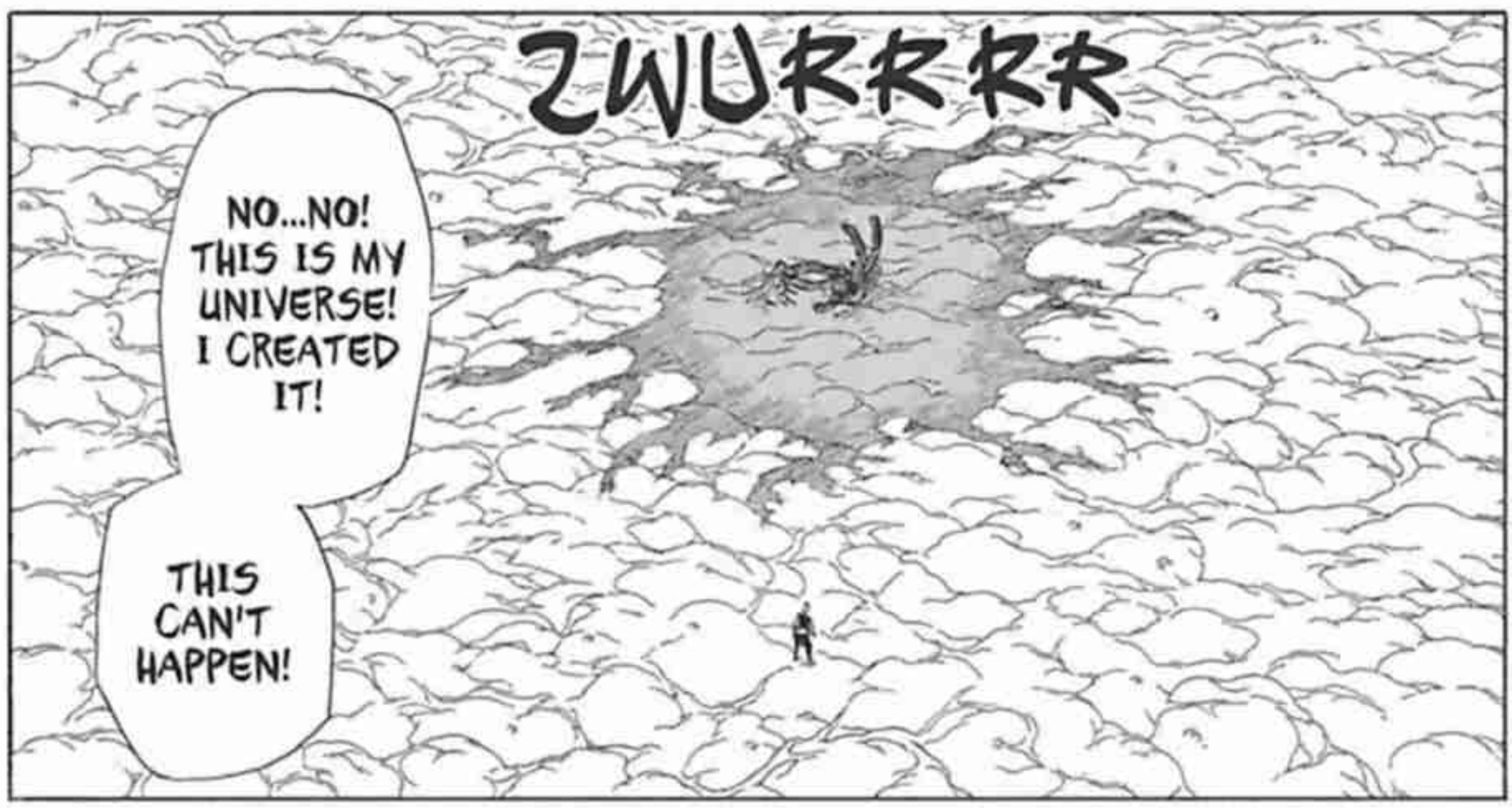
?!

?!

ZWUR
ZWUR
ZWUR



CHOMP
...!
THIS ...
CHOMP


ZWURRRR
NO...NO! THIS IS MY UNIVERSE! I CREATED IT!
THIS CAN'T HAPPEN!

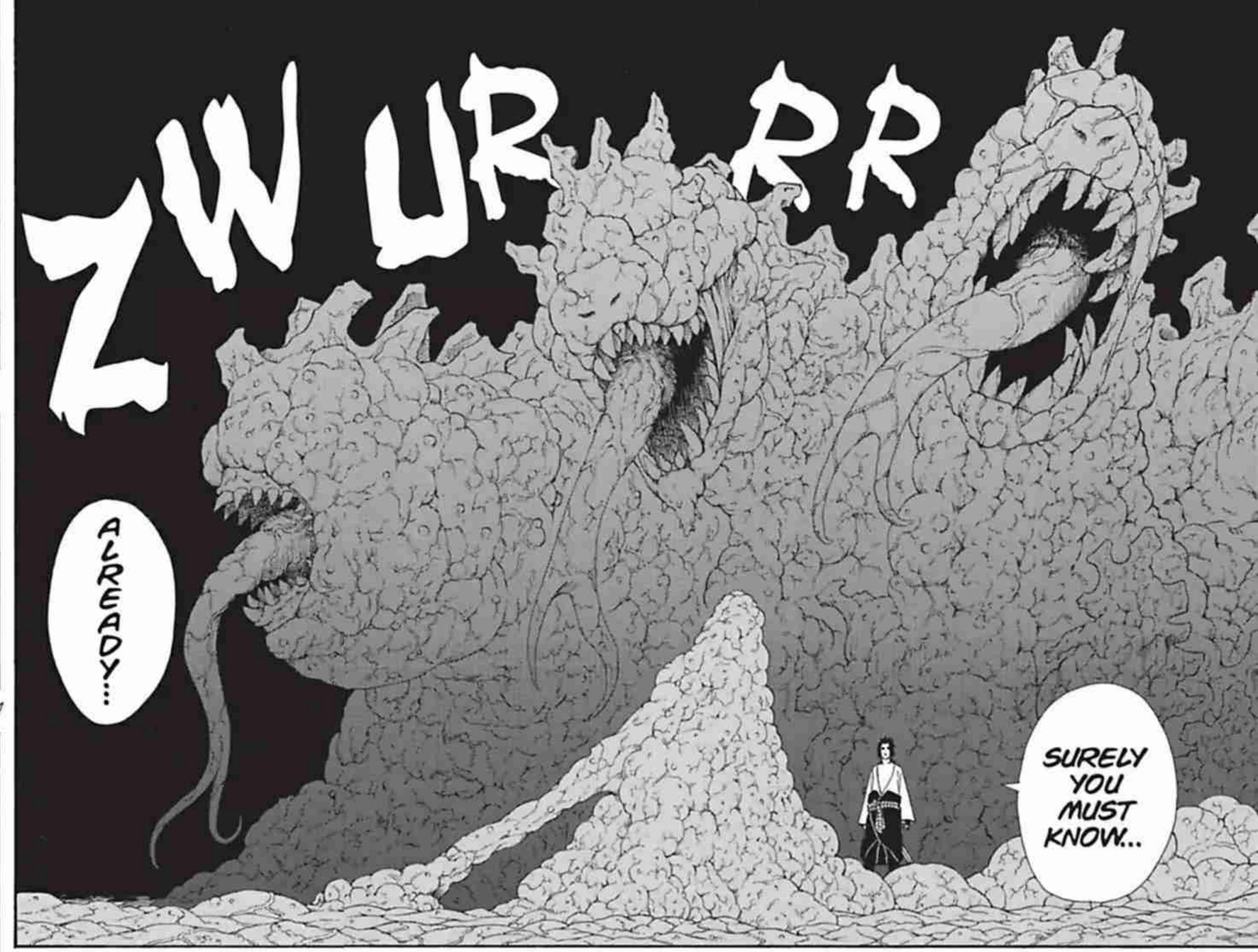
OROCHI-MARU, MY EYES CAN SEE THROUGH ALL YOUR JUTSU.

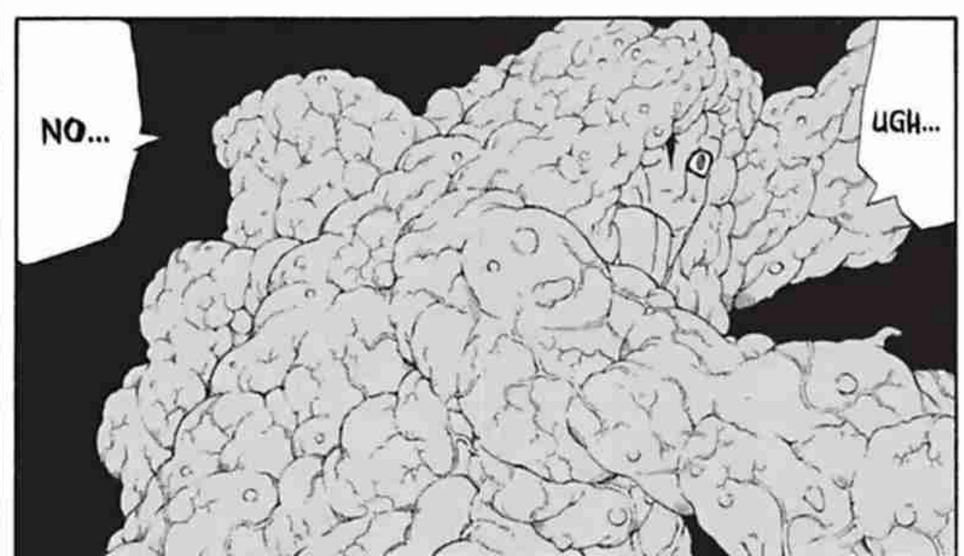
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
IT CAN'T!
THIS IS MY OWN SPACE!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
ZWOP
THIS CAN'T...

I WILL NOT DIE HERE!
I AM OROCHIMARU. I AM IMMORTAL!

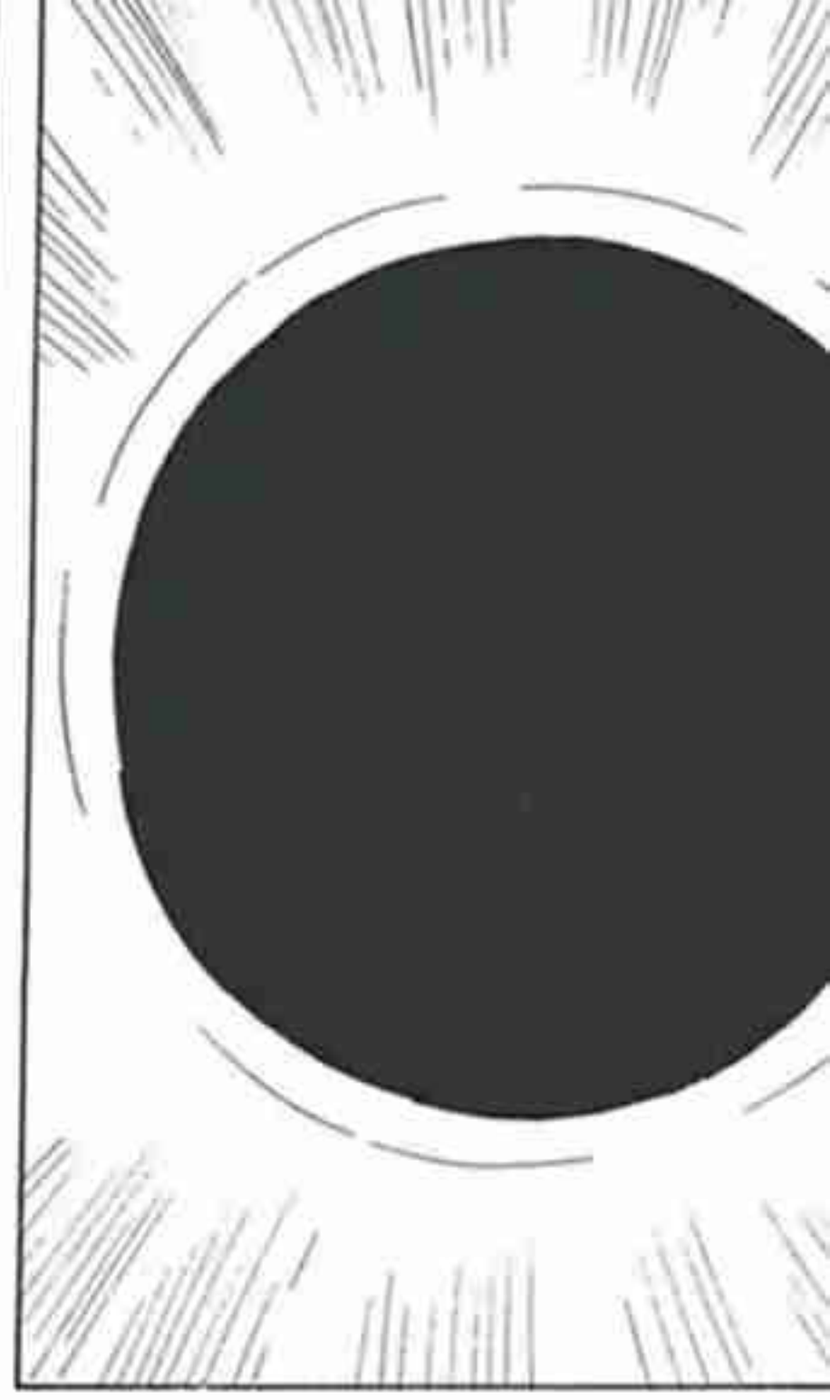
I AM THE... ONE WHO WILL RECEIVE ...EVERYTHING!!
I...I AM THE ONE WHO...WILL UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE!


ZWURRR
ALREADY...
SURELY YOU MUST KNOW...


NO...
UGH...

SASUKE'S WILL IS... ERODING OROCHIMARU'S VERY INNER BEING.
HOW... HOW FRIGHTFUL...

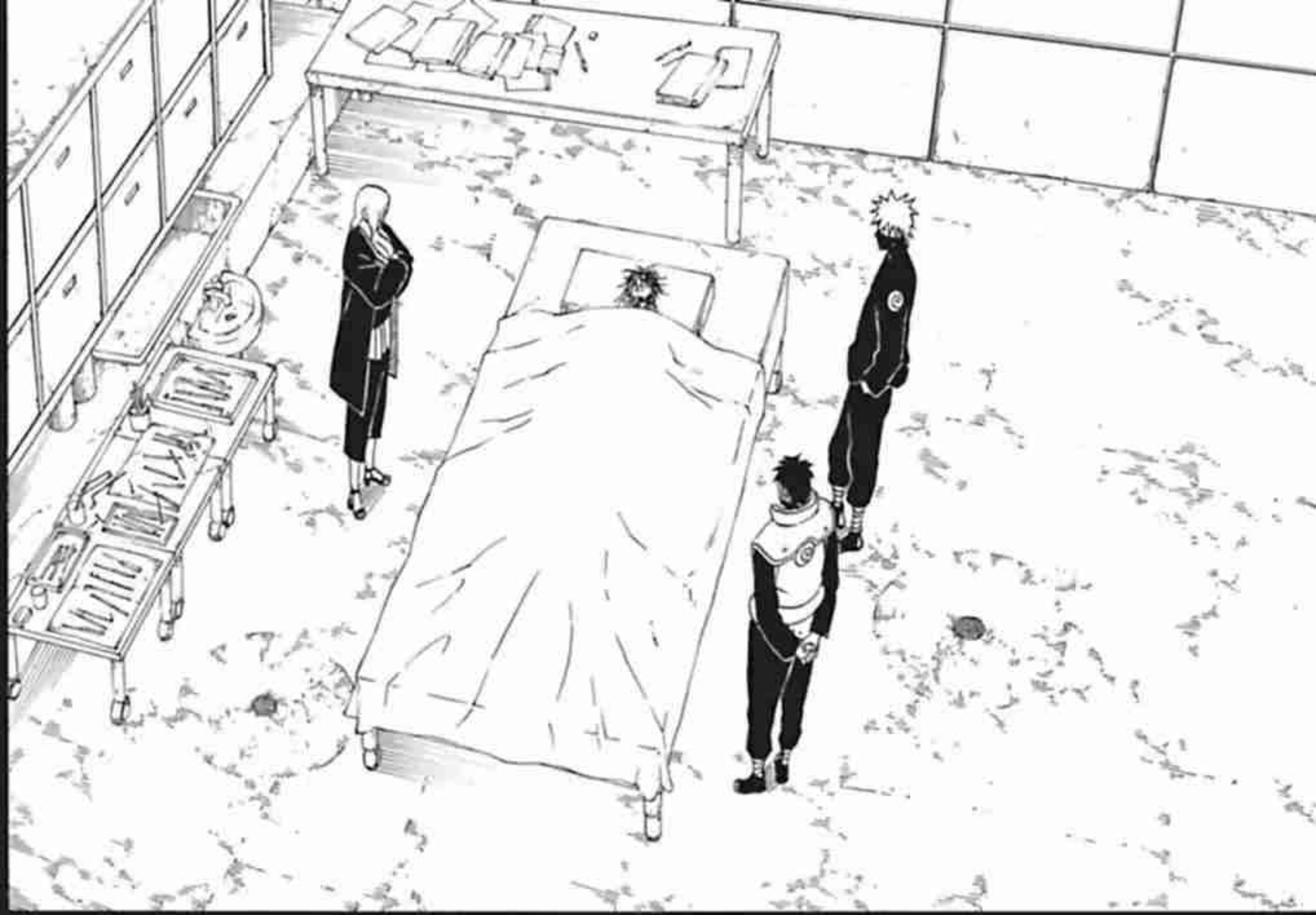
LORD ORO-CHIMARU ...IS DEAD.



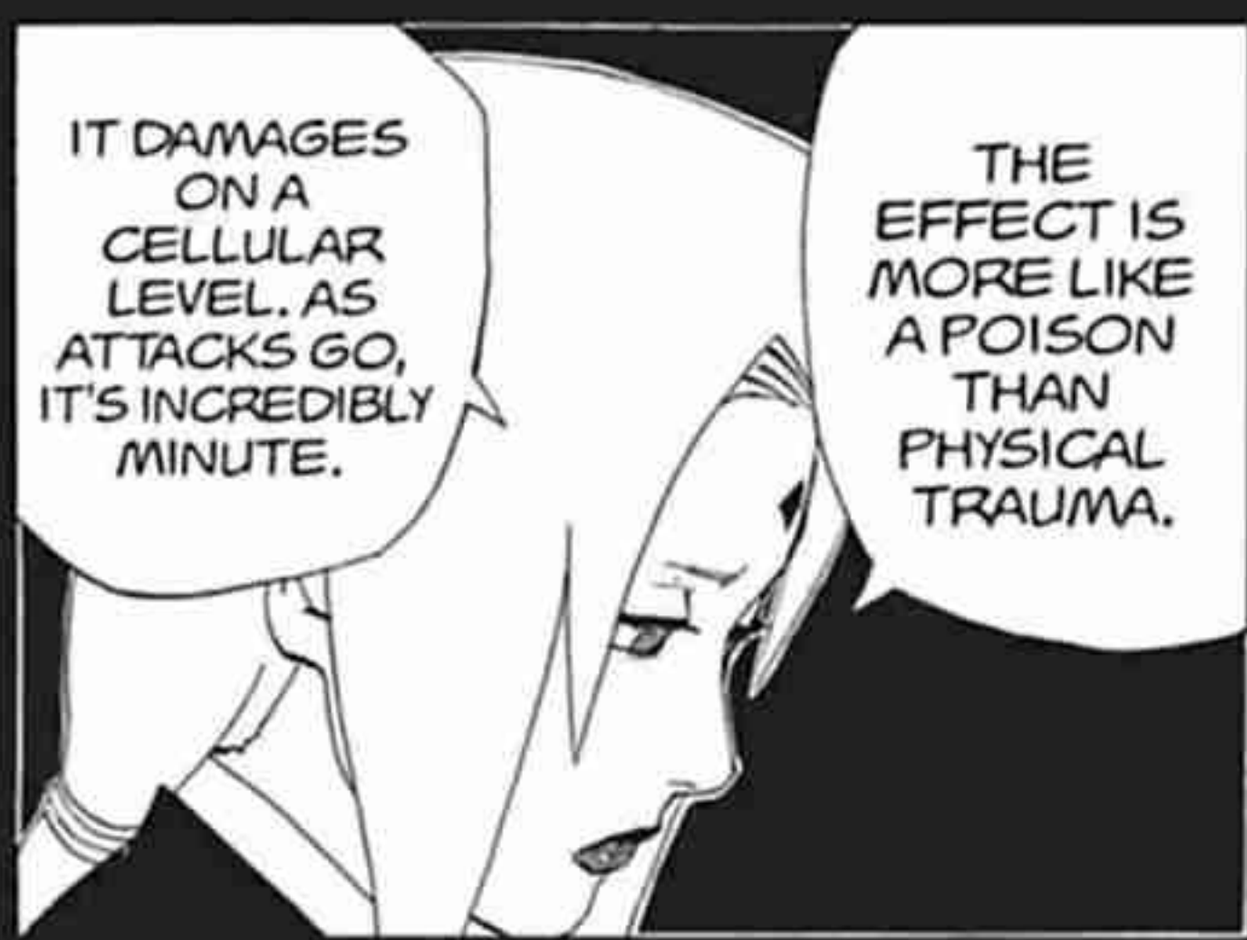
NO... NO, IT'S MORE...

I ABSORBED HIM. THAT'S ALL.

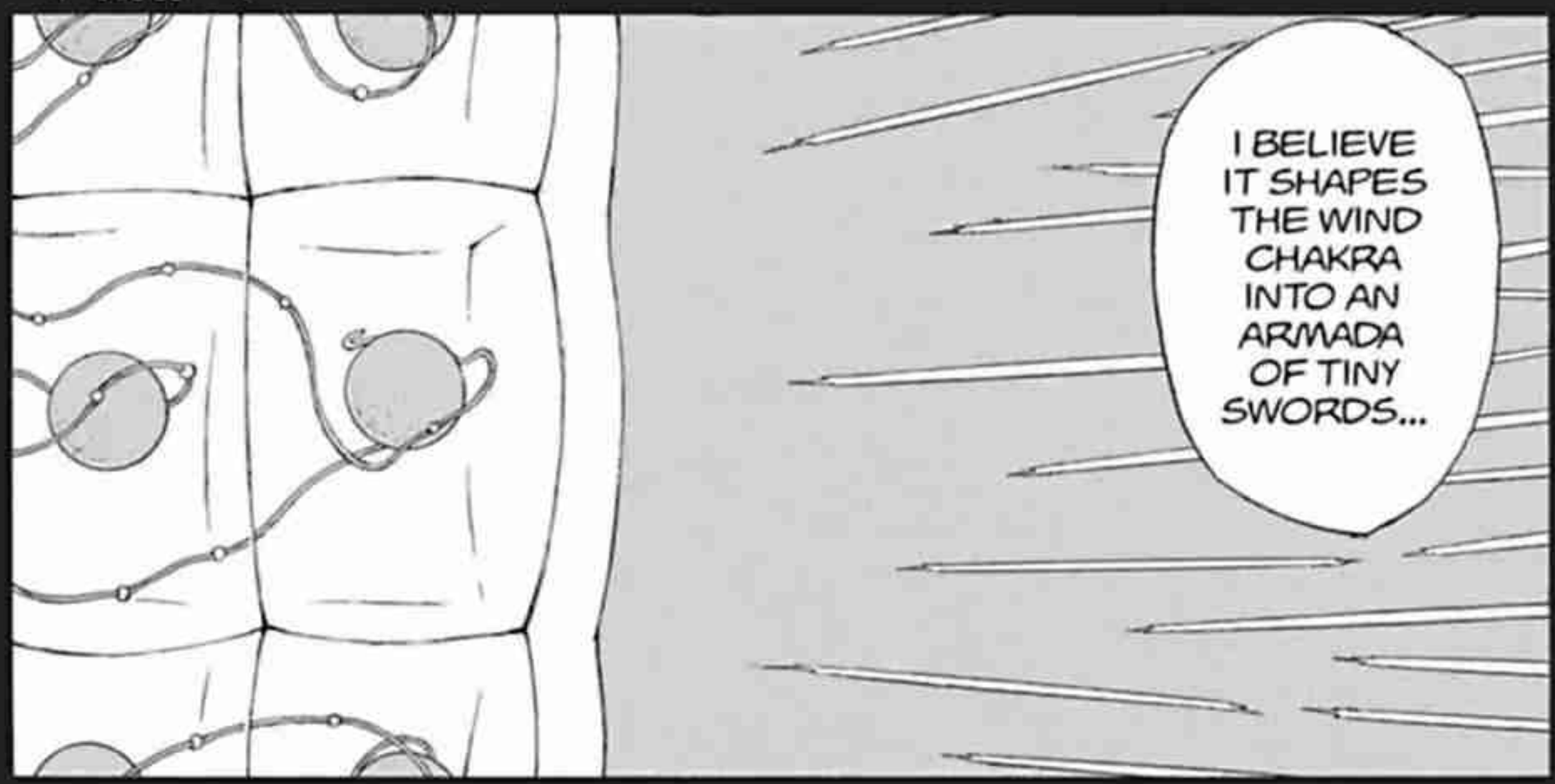
READ THIS WAY
SHK
ネギラーメン
一楽
(ICHIRAKU)

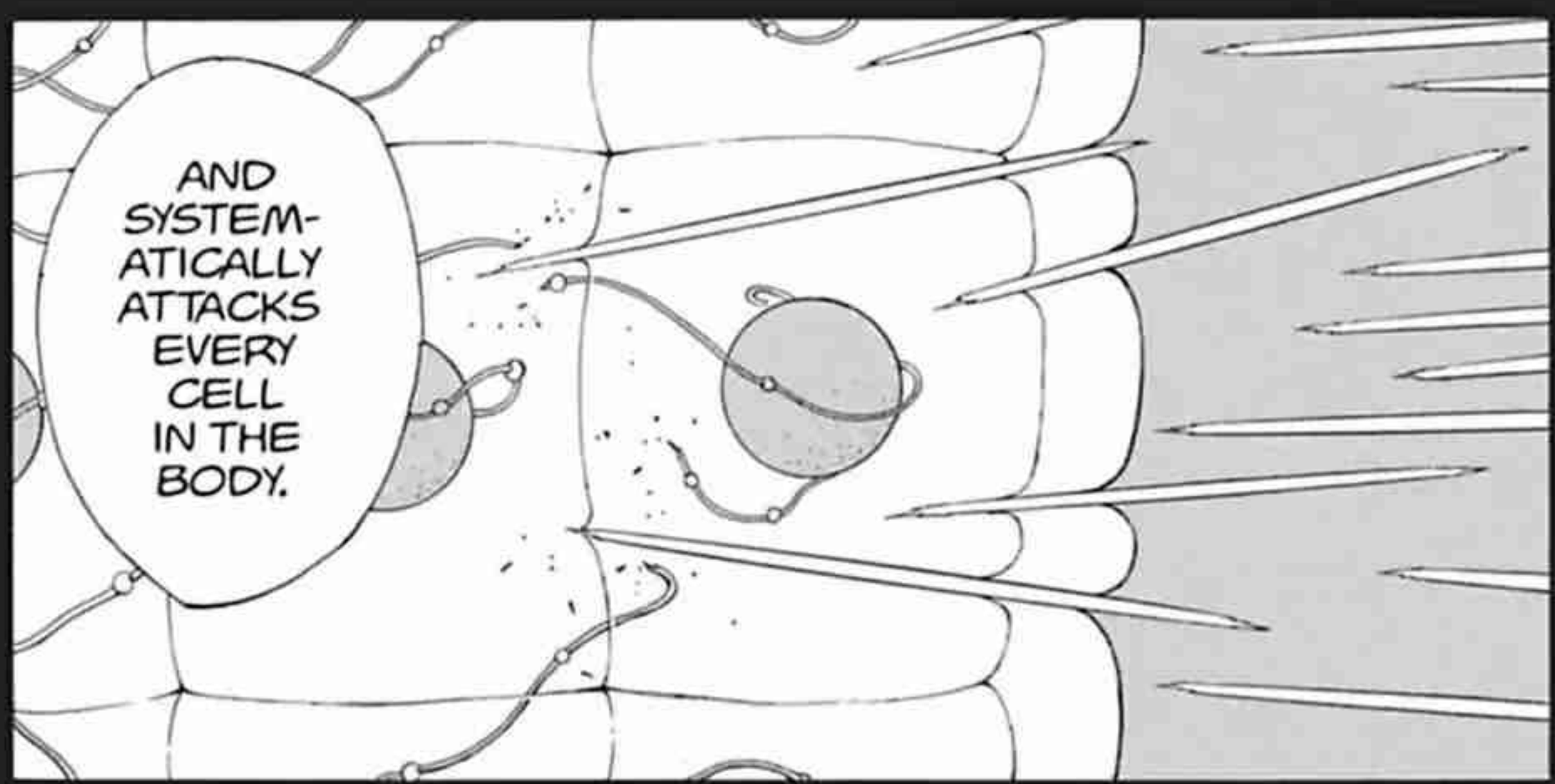


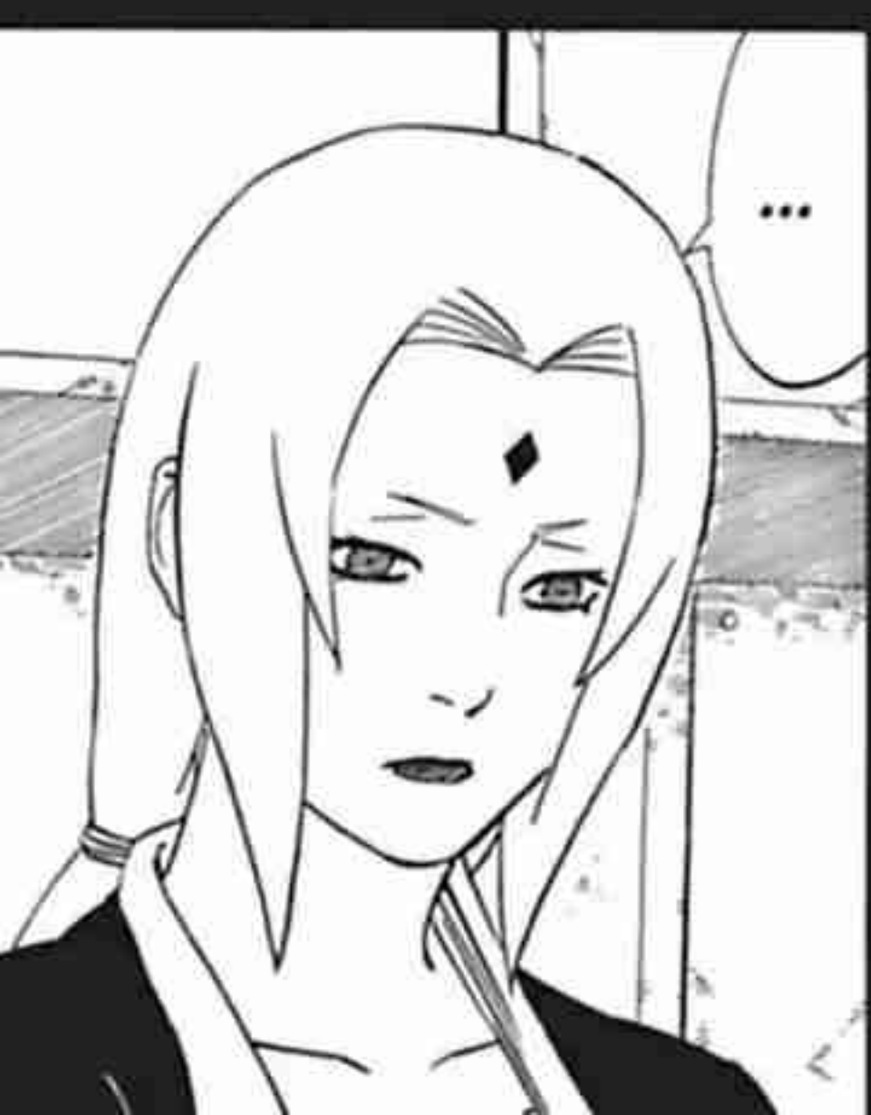
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE. BUT IT IS SO.
HIS CHAKRA NETWORK HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SEVERED.


IT DAMAGES ON A CELLULAR LEVEL. AS ATTACKS GO, IT'S INCREDIBLY MINUTE.
THE EFFECT IS MORE LIKE A POISON THAN PHYSICAL TRAUMA.

WIND STYLE RASEN-SHURIKEN... HOW VERY THOROUGH ...


I BELIEVE IT SHAPES THE WIND CHAKRA INTO AN ARMADA OF TINY SWORDS...


AND SYSTEM-ATICALLY ATTACKS EVERY CELL IN THE BODY.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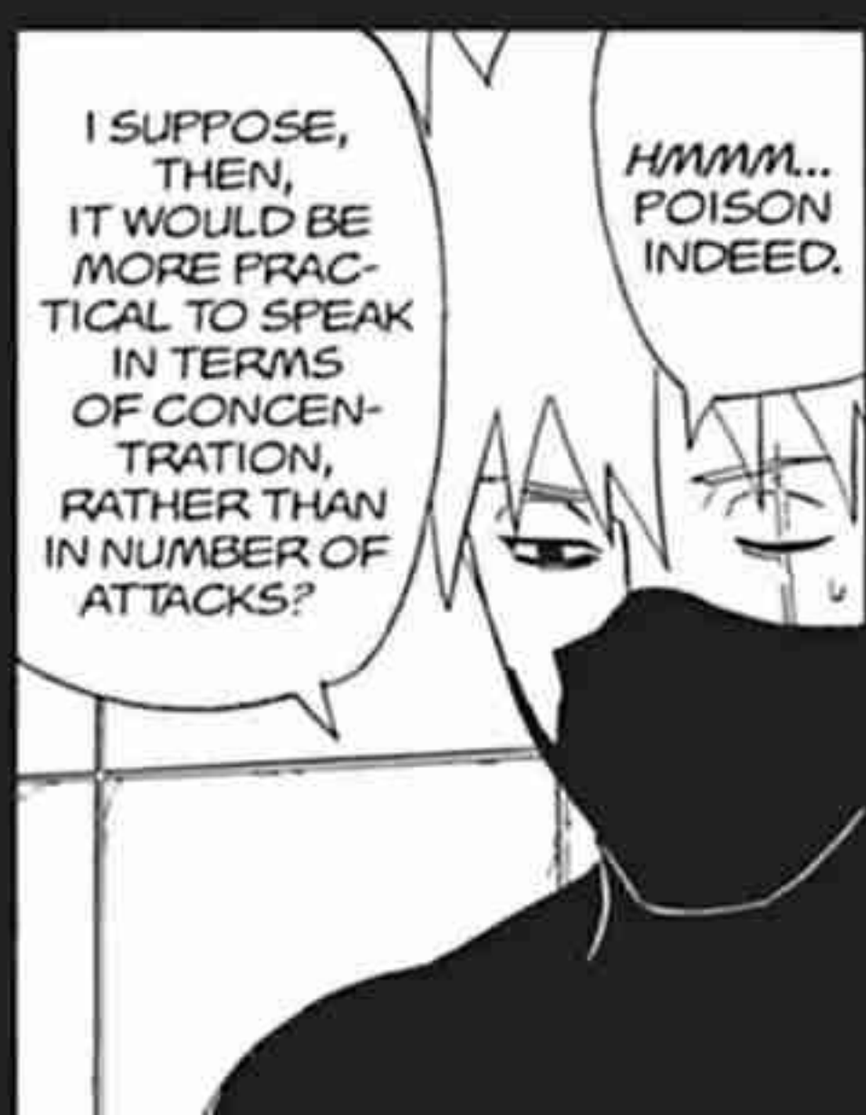
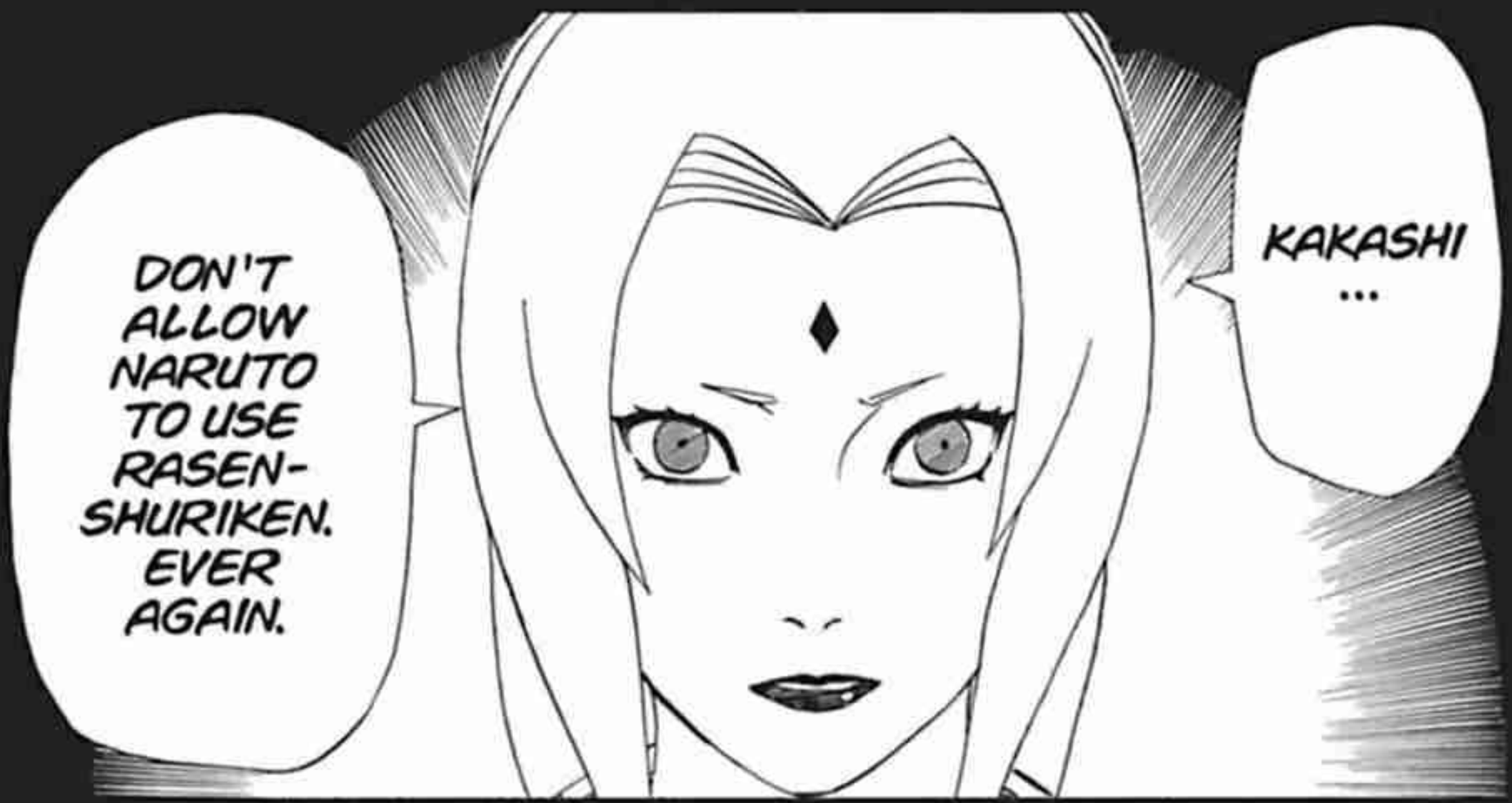

I SUPPOSE, THEN, IT WOULD BE MORE PRAC-TICAL TO SPEAK IN TERMS OF CONCEN-TRATION, RATHER THAN IN NUMBER OF ATTACKS?
HMMM... POISON INDEED.

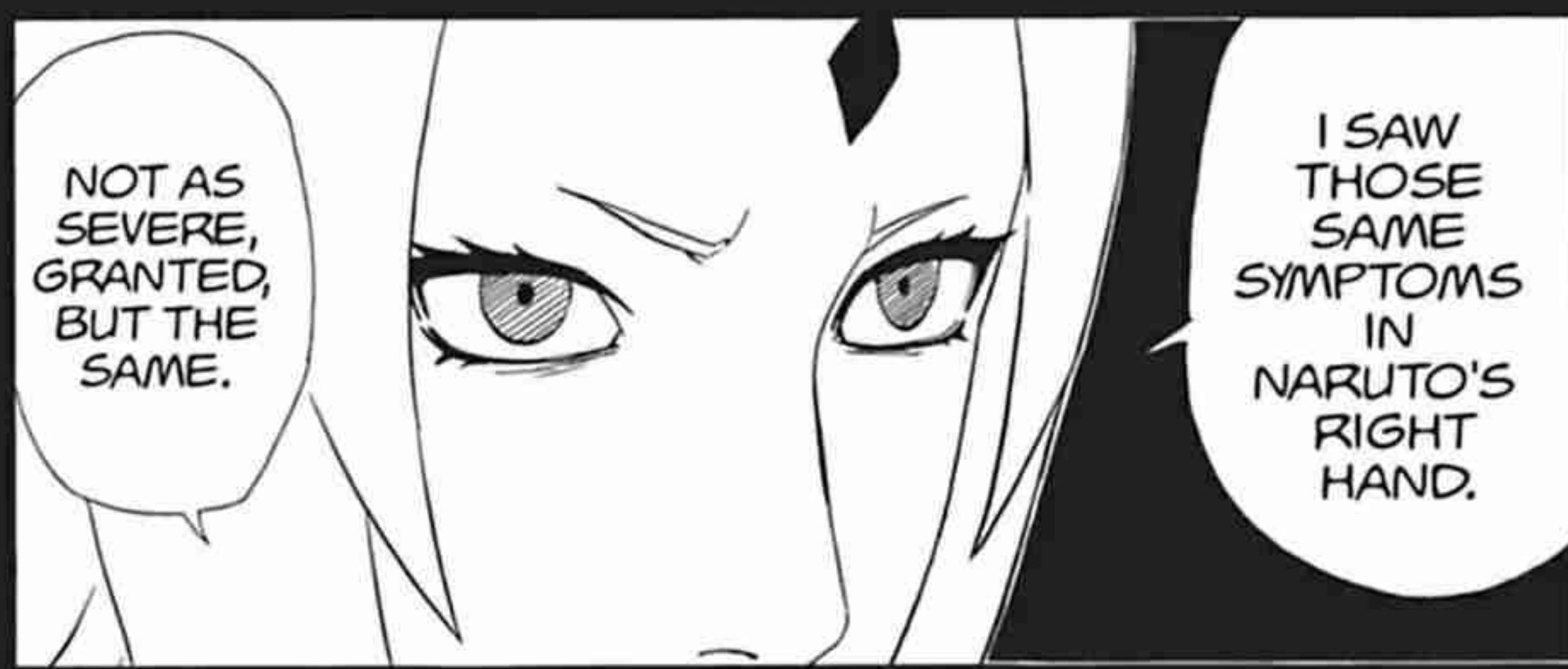
THAT'S SOME JUTSU ...
...

SO... HOW'S NARUTO?

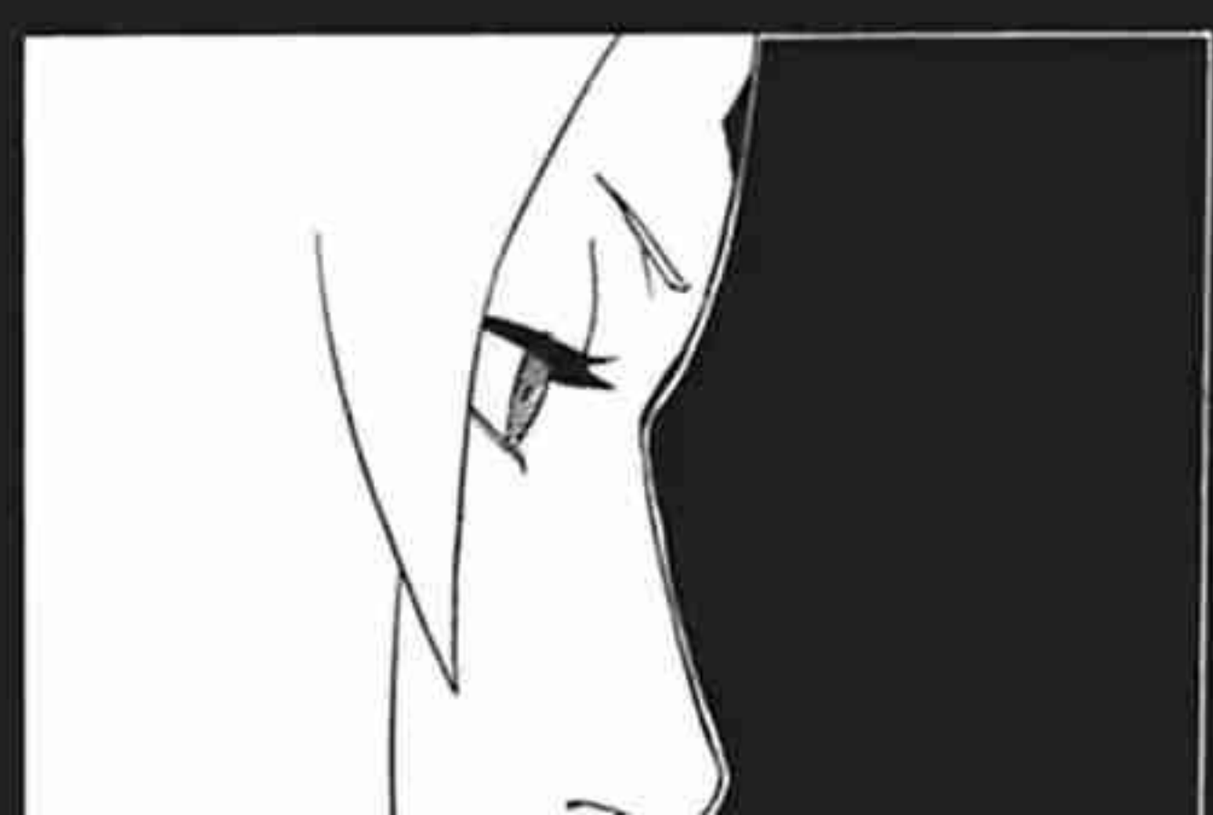


THAT BAD, HUH.

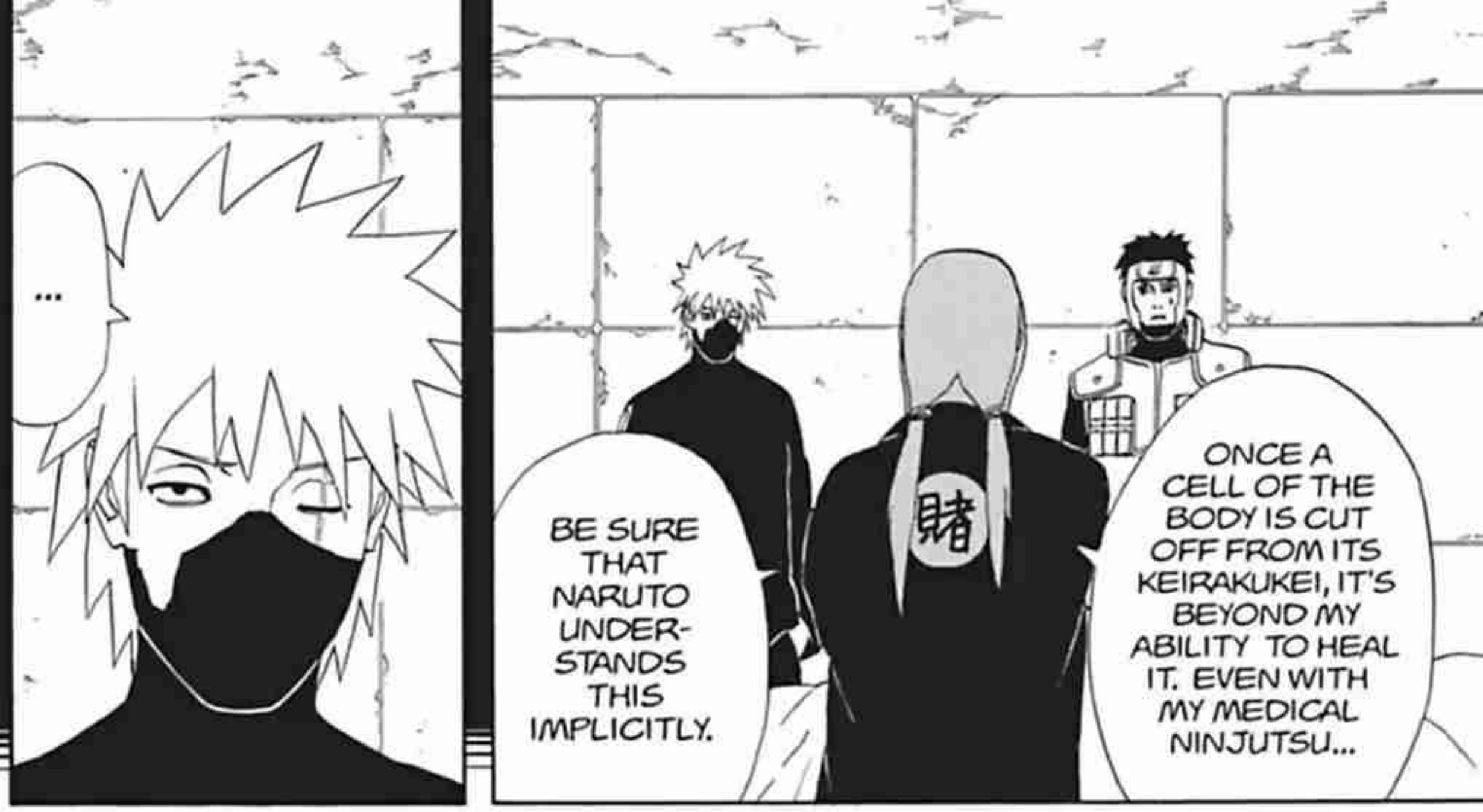
?!


NOT AS SEVERE, GRANTED, BUT THE SAME.
I SAW THOSE SAME SYMPTOMS IN NARUTO'S RIGHT HAND.

IT COMES WITH A RISK...
IT IS A POWERFUL JUTSU...



HE'LL ALTO-GETHER LOSE HIS ABILITY TO WIELD CHAKRA...
IF NARUTO CONTINUES TO USE THE JUTSU, THEN BEFORE LONG...


...
BE SURE THAT NARUTO UNDER-STANDS THIS IMPLICITLY.
ONCE A CELL OF THE BODY IS CUT OFF FROM ITS KEIRAKUKEI, IT'S BEYOND MY ABILITY TO HEAL IT. EVEN WITH MY MEDICAL NINJUTSU...

!

MASTER ...

NARUTO ...ABOUT THAT NEW JUTSU...

...WAY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE DOES!

I KNOW HOW I FEEL...

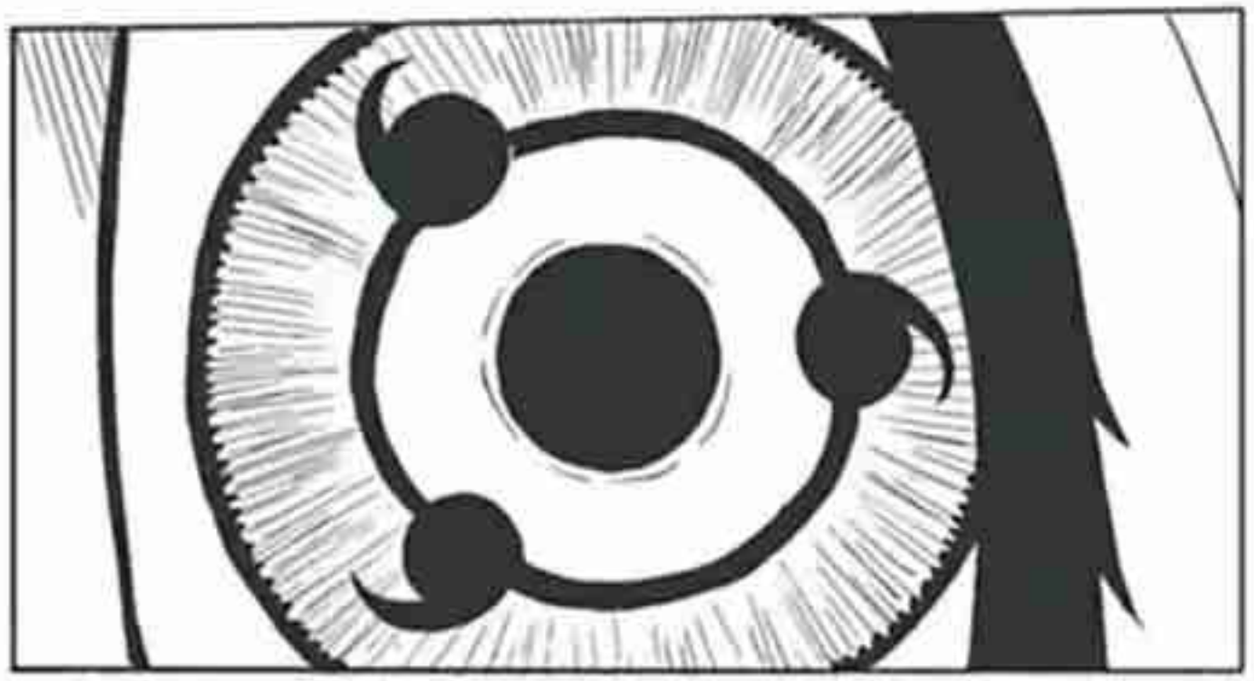
PLISH
SHK
I KNEW YOU'D SHOW UP.
I TAKE IT, THEN, YOU'VE KILLED OROCHI-MARU.
YEAH ...
HERE, LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THAT THING.
SHAK
FSSH

SPOSSH
CHINK

MY REGARDS, SASUKE.
SLURR
I'M FREE... AT LAST...

SPLASH

SUIGETSU ...YOU ARE MY FIRST.
COME WITH ME.



Number
317: A Defeat-II

I'M TAKING JUGO OF THE NORTHERN HIDEOUT AND KARIN OF THE SOUTHERN ...
TWO MORE.

SLURR
WHO ELSE, THEN?
I'M THE FIRST?

WHY?

YOU SERI-OUS?
SWIRL

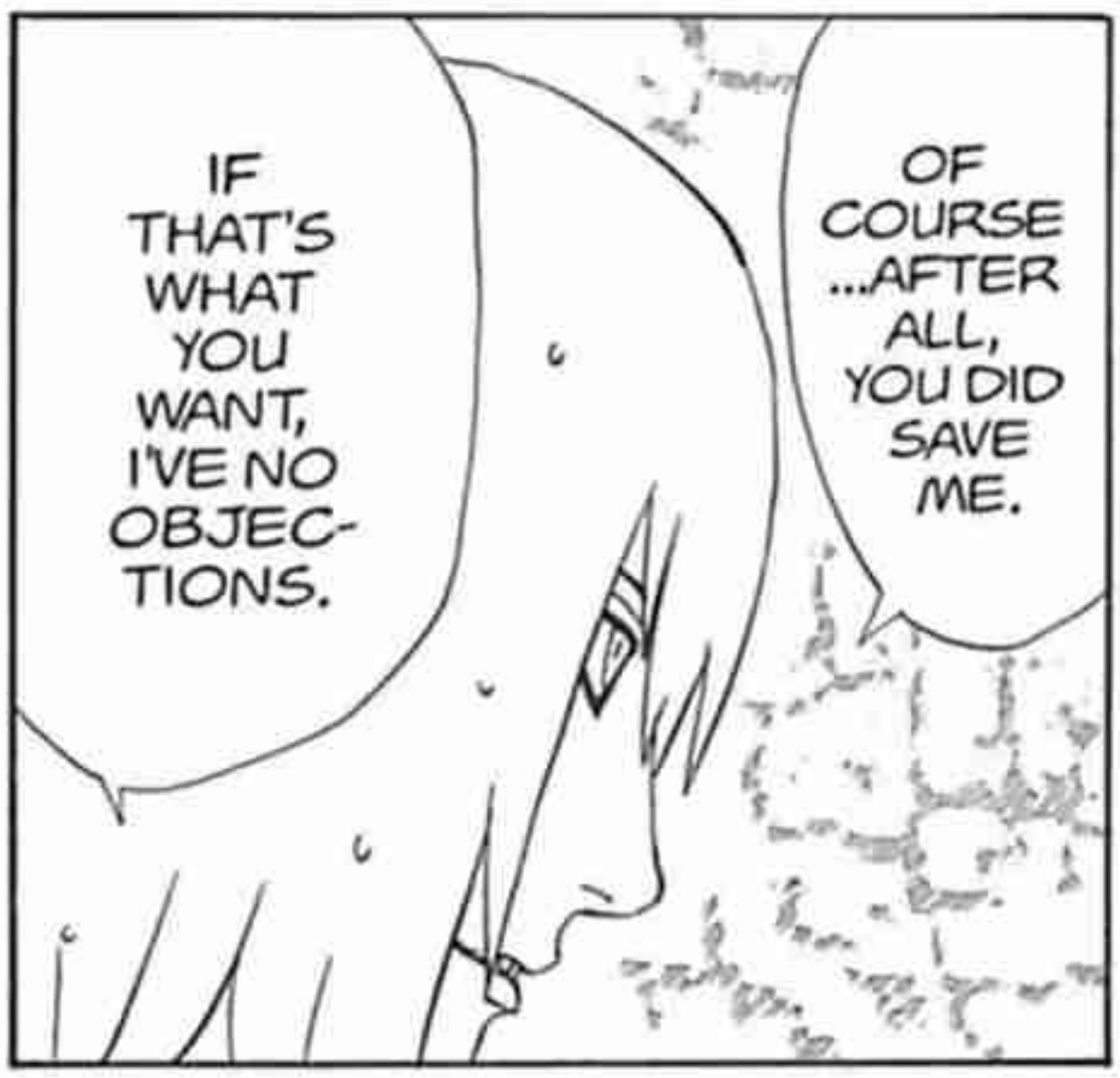
I JUST DON'T THINK WE'D GET ALONG, IS ALL.

WELL... I'M NOT PARTICU-LARLY FOND OF THEM.

Number 322!

A Defeat!!

HEH...


IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'VE NO OBJECTIONS.
OF COURSE ...AFTER ALL, YOU DID SAVE ME.

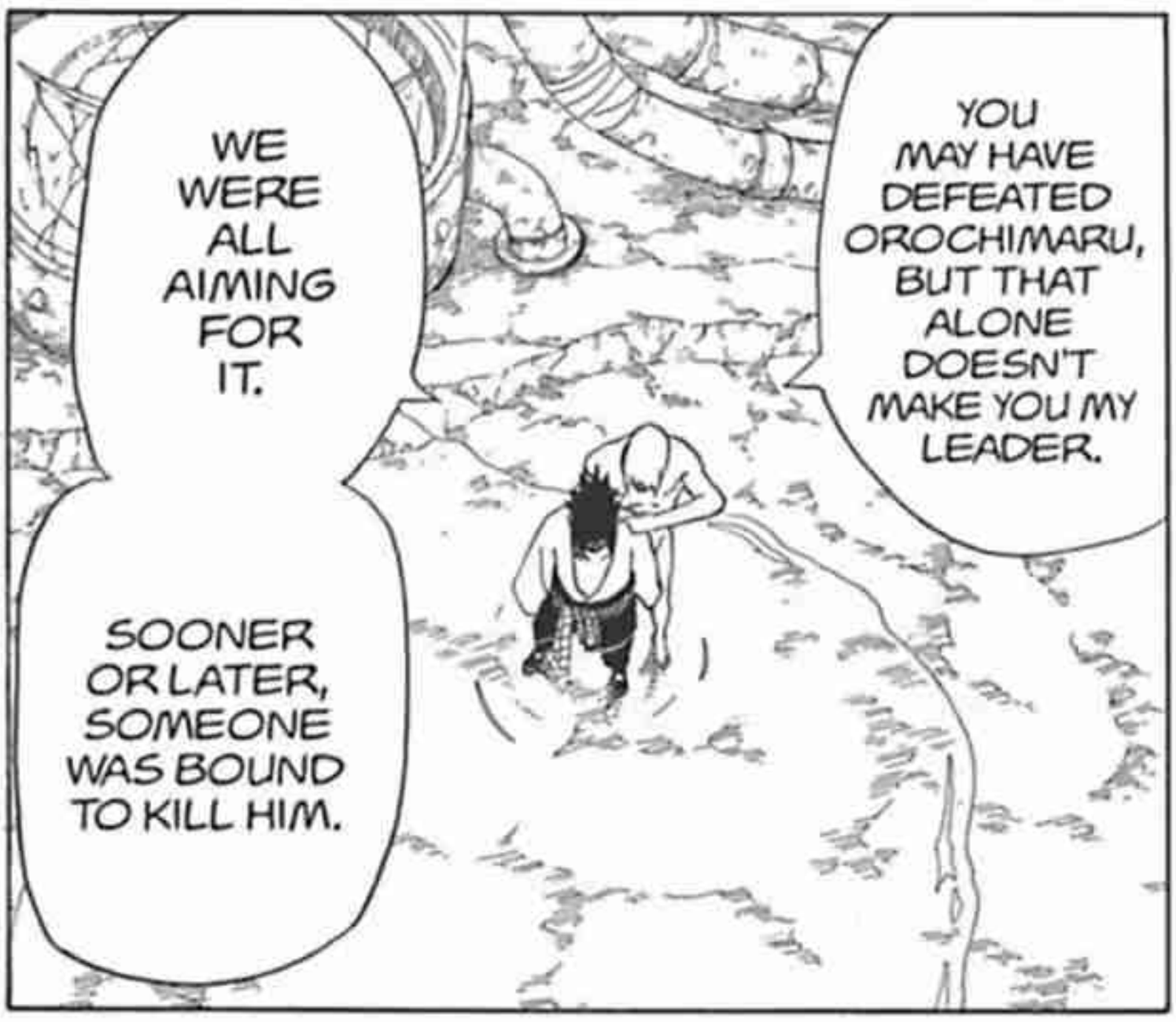
JUST CO-OPER-ATE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FRIENDS.

STILL, SASUKE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D GO FOR THEM.
WE'RE GOING.
JUST SHUT UP AND GET DRESSED.

OH DEAR. THE WAY YOU TALK...
HA HA...

SHALL WE?

FIRST, LET'S CLARIFY OUR RELATION-SHIP...



YOU HAD ALL THE ADVANTAGE YOU NEEDED.

YOU WERE HIS FAVORITE. HE LET YOU STAY BY HIS SIDE WHILE THE REST OF US SLEPT IN CAGES.

LOOK AT US TWO. RIGHT NOW, I HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE.

YOUR POINT IS?

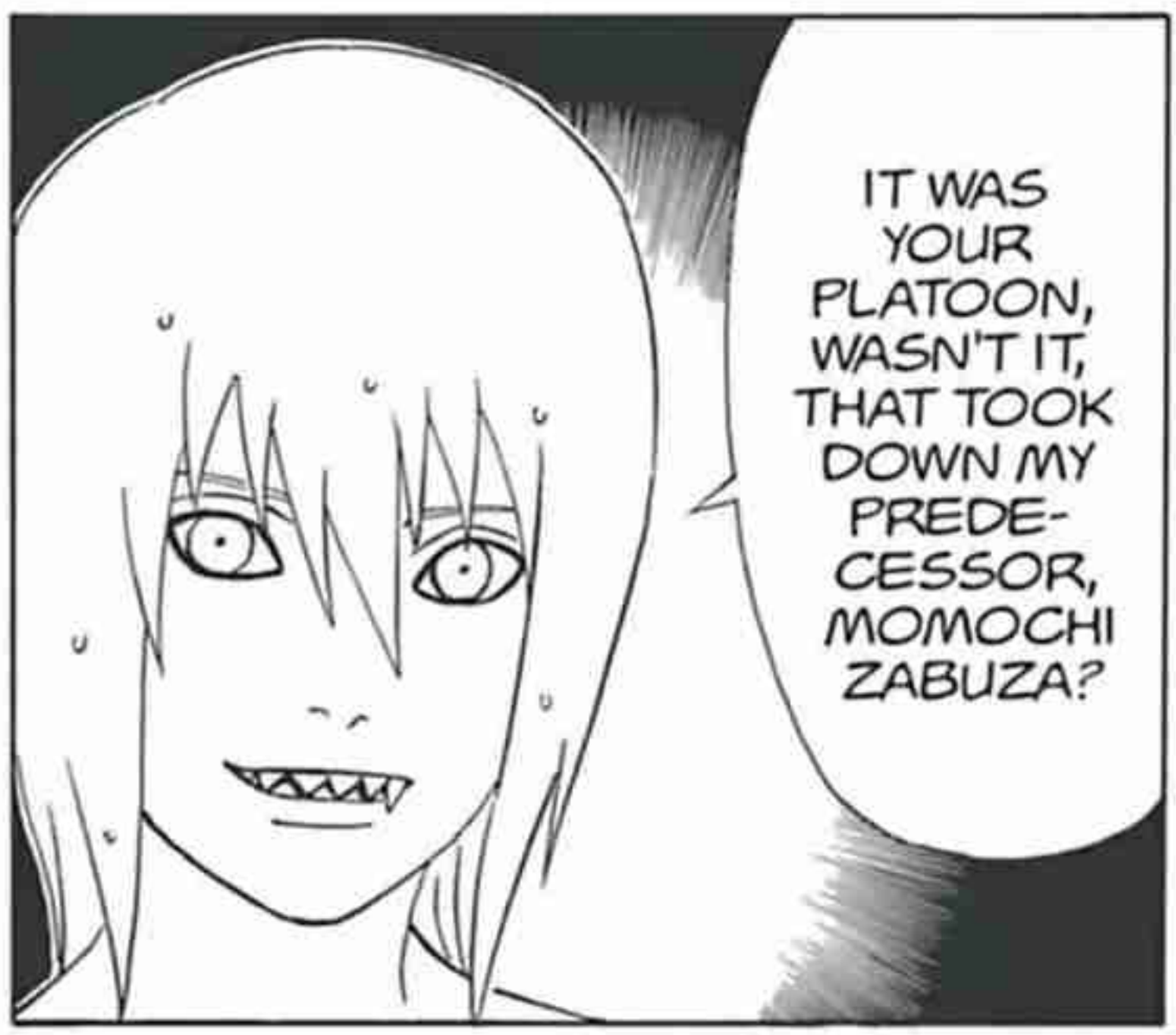
...

THAT WAS A PRETTY BAD SPOT I PUT YOU IN, AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN BLINK.

SO IT WASN'T LUCK, THEN. THAT'S REASSURING.

SHF

FORGET IT. JUST TESTING.



READ THIS WAY
一楽
一楽
ラーメン
!
ラ
メ
!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU CAN CAST SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS NOW?
OKAY, NARUTO ... HERE GOES!
C'MON!
ALL RIGHT. COME SHOW ME HOW YOU'VE BEEN TRAININ'.

ART OF ONNA-NOKO TACHI !!
THAT'S YOUR NEW MOVE?!
AWWWHHH!!

...

SAY NO MORE!
CRUMP
BLARGH!!
BONG

ZIN
NG
WHAT D'YA THINK OF THAT, NARUTO?!
YOU SEE, WITH TWO GIRLS, IT'S EVEN...
STOMP
STOMP

ERR... IT'S A FORM OF DIVERSION, SEE...
AND THIS IS A, ERR, SERIOUS PROJECT BETWEEN US TWO...I MEAN, COMPETITION...
IS THIS WHAT YOU GUYS DO WHEN YOU GET TOGETHER?!
IS IT?!

FWIP

DIS-TRACT THE ENEMY?
THE ONLY ONES YOU'LL BE DISTRACT-ING ARE YOUR-SELVES !!
WELL, DON'T PUT YOUR-SELVES OUT!
C'MON!!

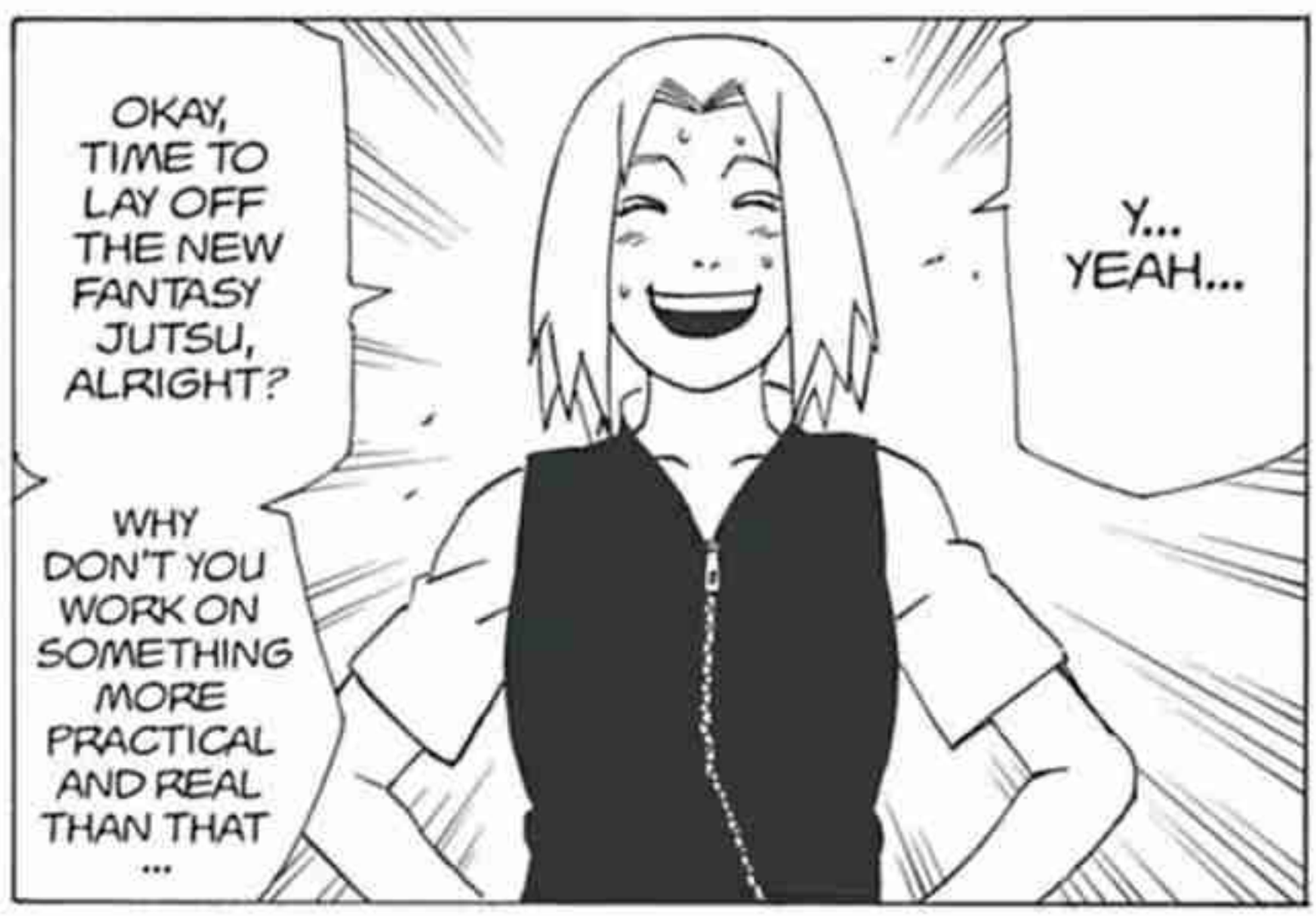
BONG

ART OF OTOKO-NOKO TACHI !!

BONK
SO MAYBE THAT IS TOO MUCH MESSING AROUND ...
AWK!
ON NG

OOP!

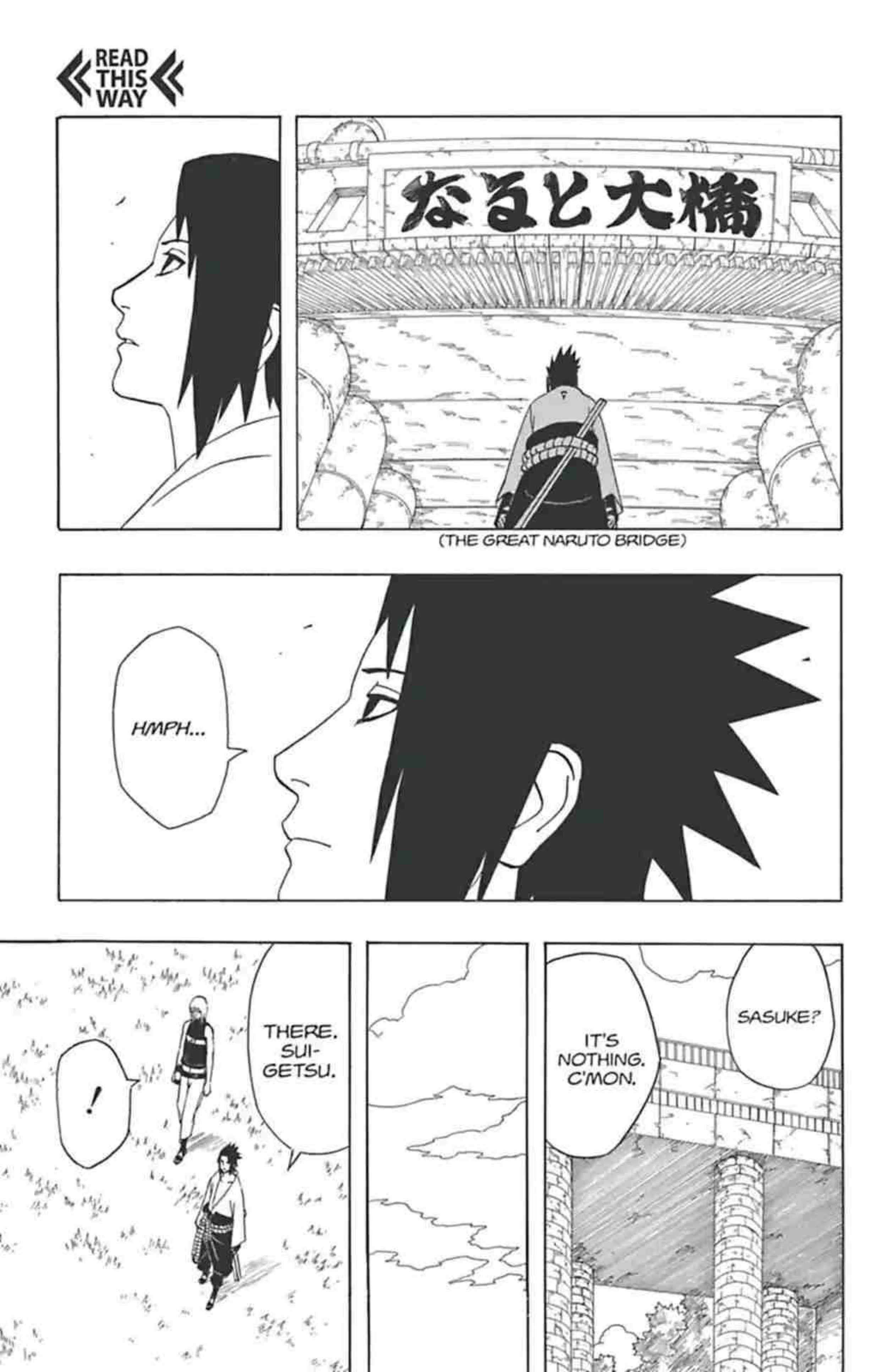
!


OKAY, TIME TO LAY OFF THE NEW FANTASY JUTSU, ALRIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU WORK ON SOMETHING MORE PRACTICAL AND REAL THAN THAT ...
Y... YEAH...

I KNEW IT...!
HEH.

OH... WAIT, I DIDN'T MEAN...
NO, THAT'S NOT... REALLY, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT I...
...

WHAT'S UP, SASUKE?


READ THIS WAY
なると大橋
(THE GREAT NARUTO BRIDGE)
HMPH...
!
THERE. SUI-GETSU.
IT'S NOTHING. C'MON.
SASUKE?

SORRY, MASTER ZABUZA. THIS IS MINE NOW.
GRIP

SHUNK

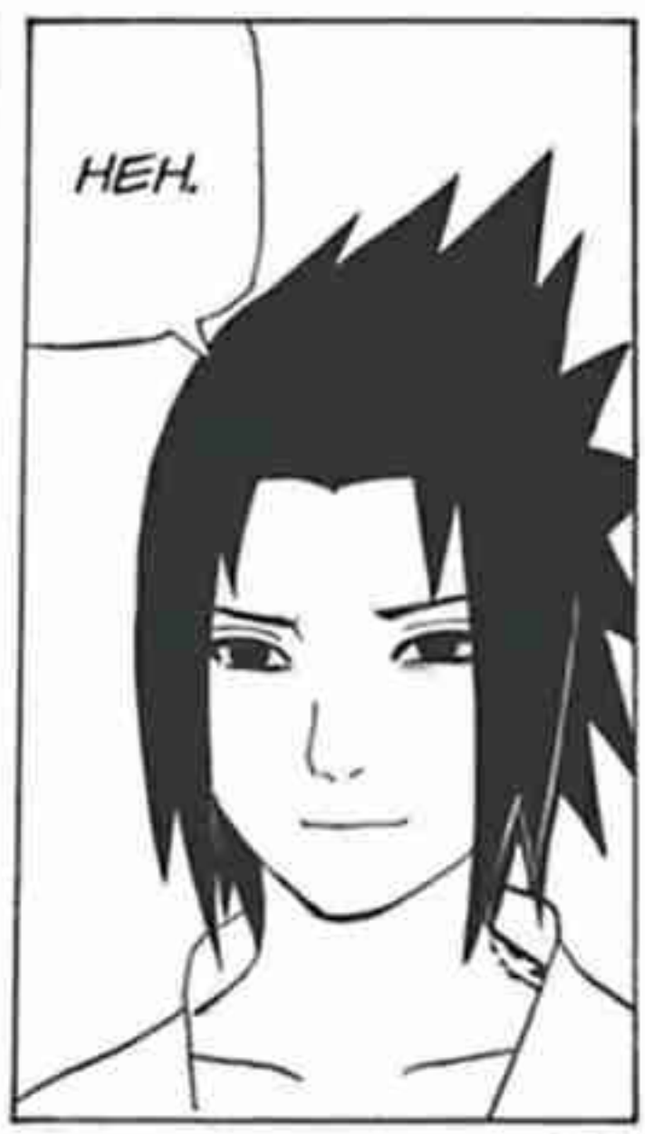
NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND THIS HERE.
SHK

PRETTY HEAVY...
THIS IS THE EXECU-TIONER'S BLADE, THE SWORD OF THE DEMON ZABUZA FROM THE VILLAGE OF BLOODY MIST.

YOU SURE YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE IT?
THOMP

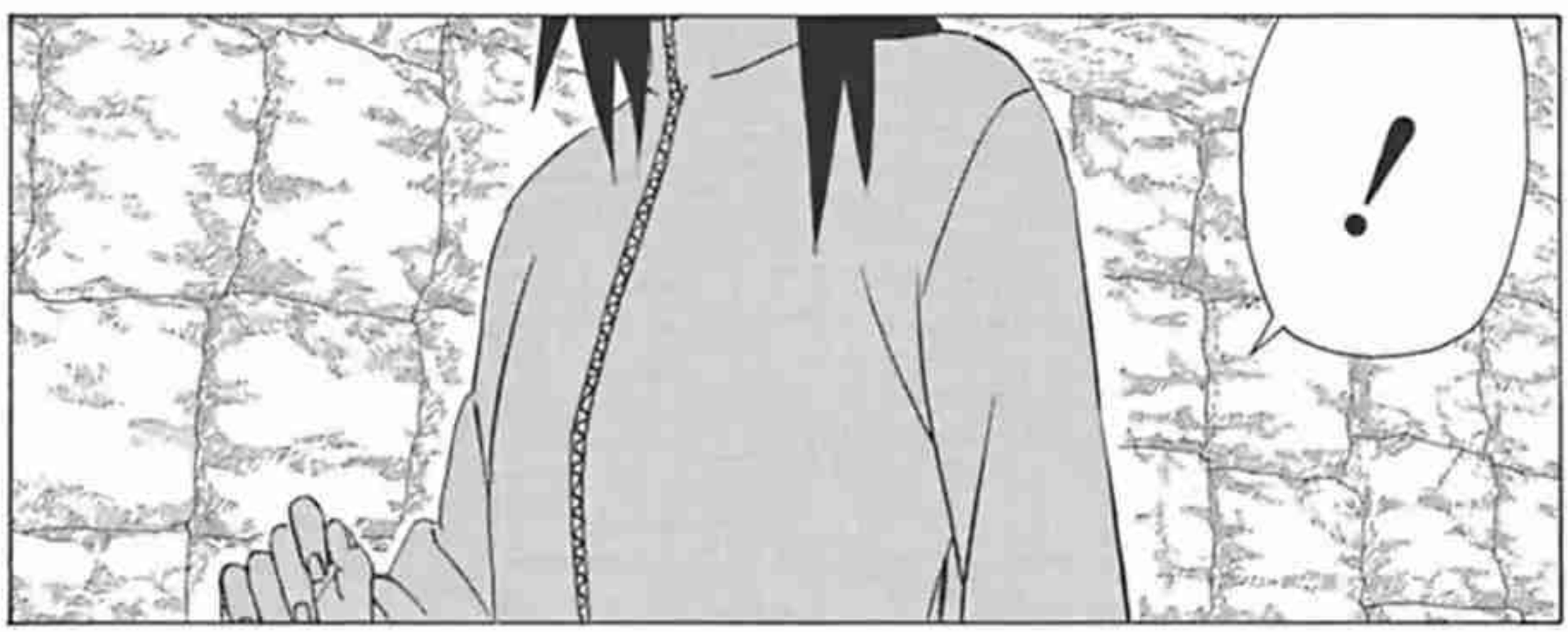
AND... ALL THESE YEARS I'VE TRAINED, I'VE DONE IT ONLY OUT OF REVERENCE FOR THE SEVEN NINJA.

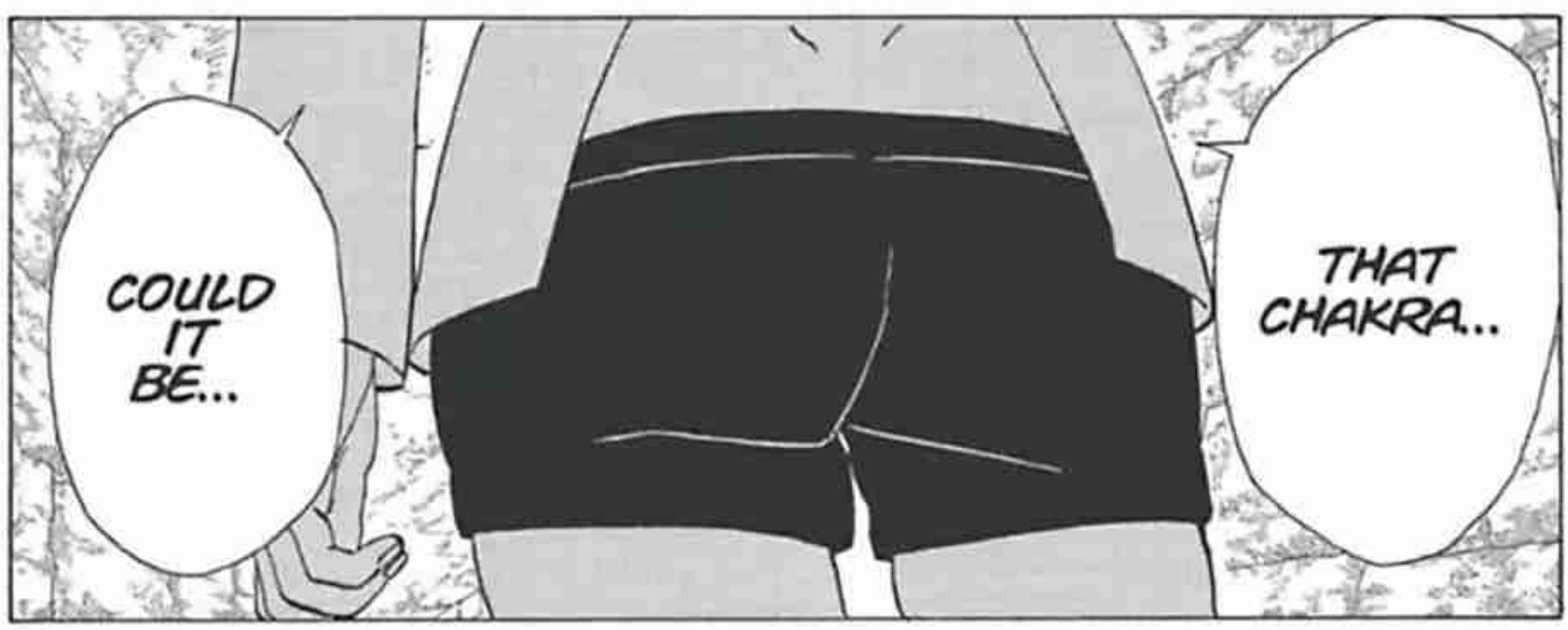
THE WEAPON OF THE ***SEVEN NINJA SWORDSMEN*** HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN, GENERATION TO GENERATION. IT'S THE TRADITION.



OROCHIMARU MAY BE DEAD, BUT THAT DOESN'T LEAVE YOU FREE TO ACT AS YOU PLEASE!

UWAAAHH!!
WHAM

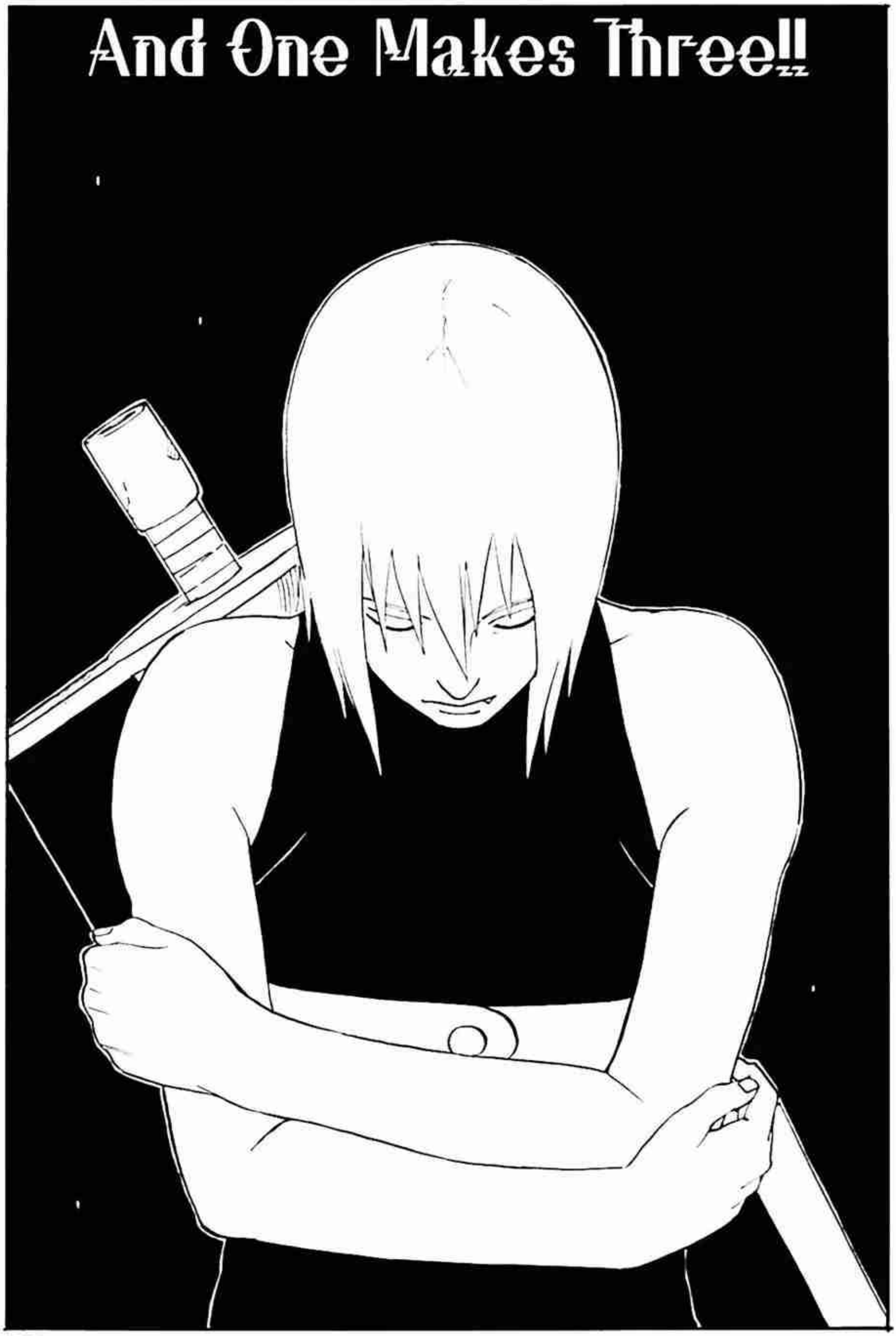

!


COULD IT BE...
THAT CHAKRA...

NARUTO

Number 348:

And One Makes Three!!



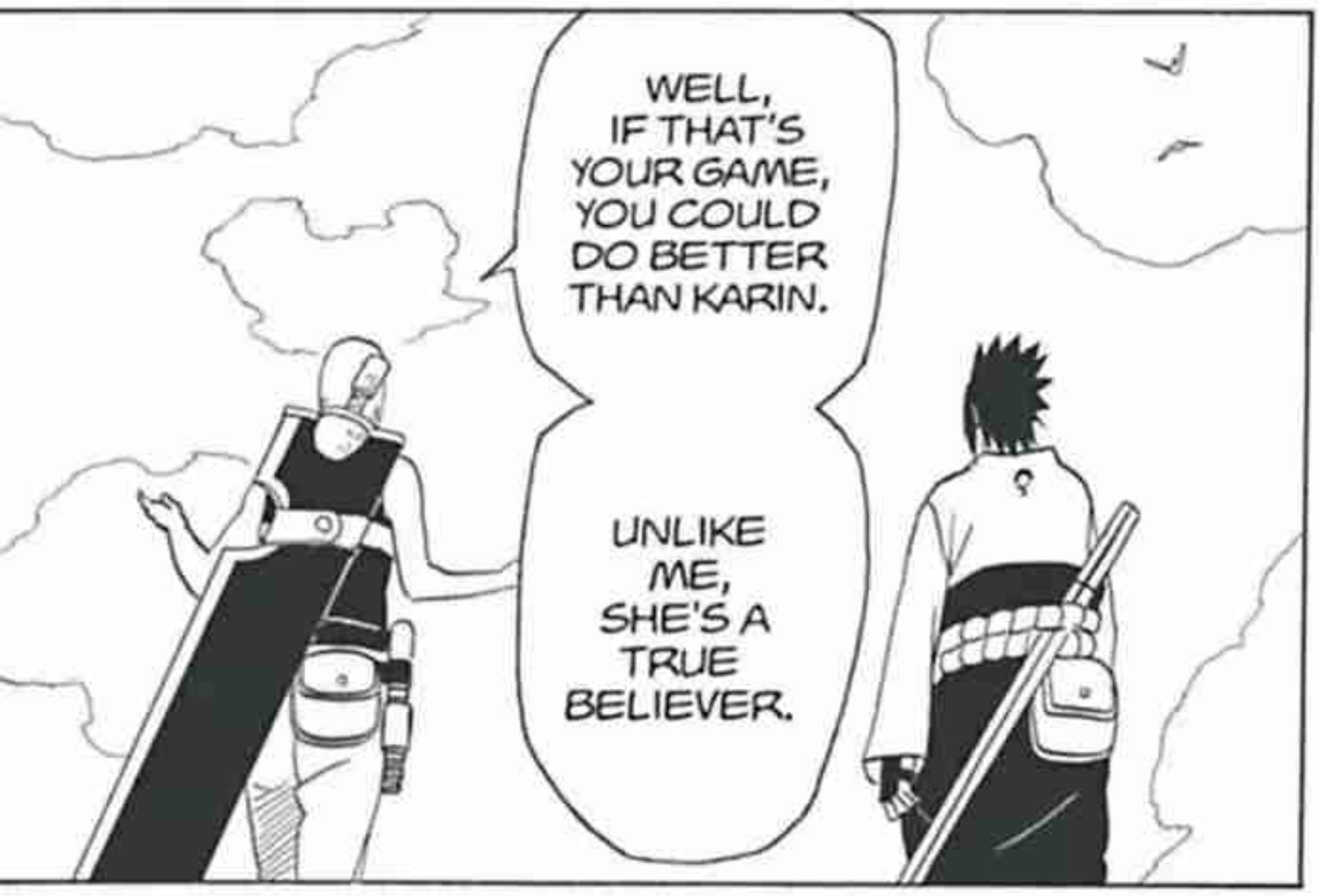
SHOOSH

WHY ARE YOU DRAGGING A TEAM TOGETHER?

YEAH?
I HAVE TO ASK.

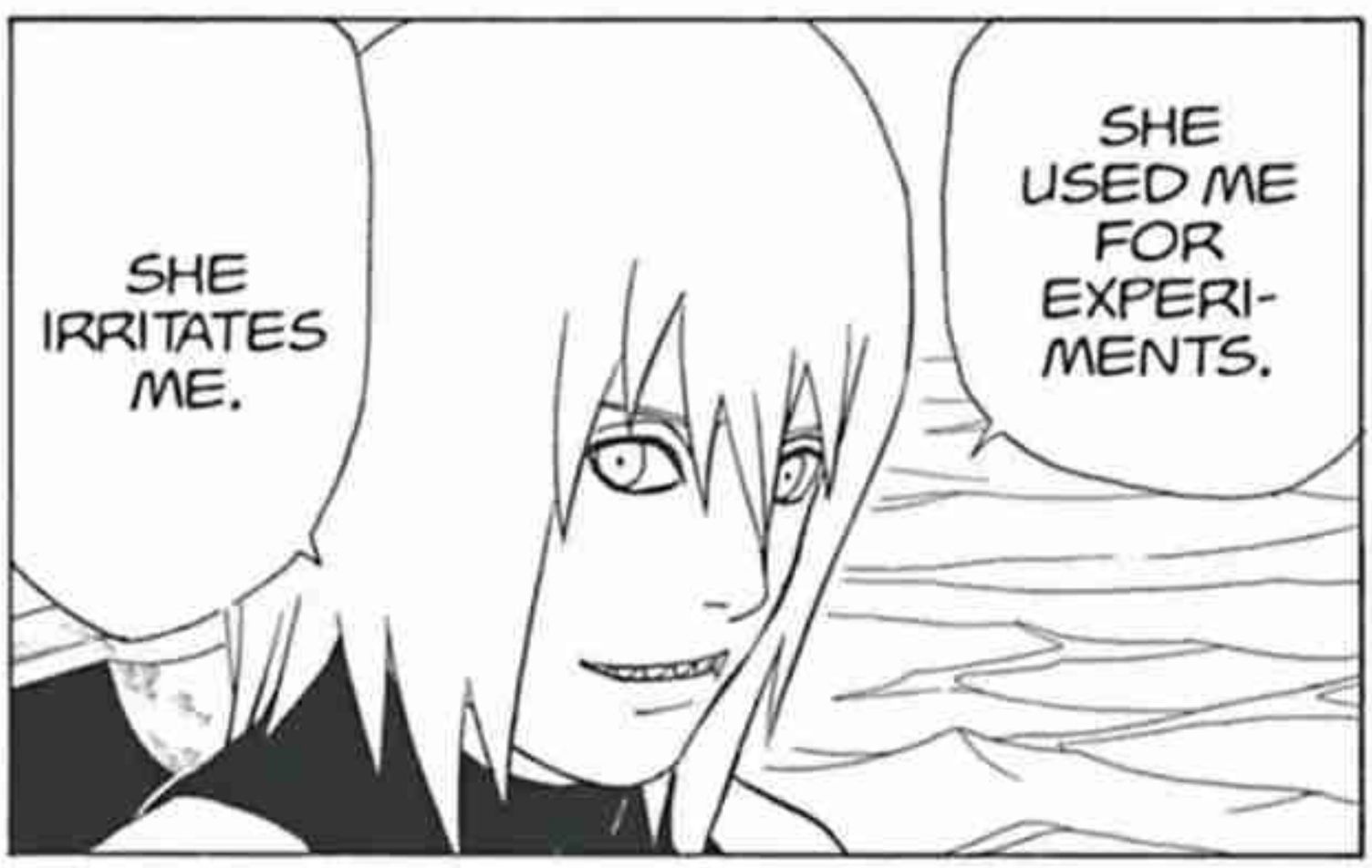
EVER SINCE I JOINED OROCHI-MARU...
OKAY... SO WHY ME?
I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS. I ALWAYS TAKE NOTE OF SHINOBI WHO CATCH MY EYE.

AND A SMALL TEAM...
I HAVE A GOAL.
...WILL LET ME REACH THAT GOAL FASTER.


WELL, IF THAT'S YOUR GAME, YOU COULD DO BETTER THAN KARIN.
UNLIKE ME, SHE'S A TRUE BELIEVER.

HEH ...

...

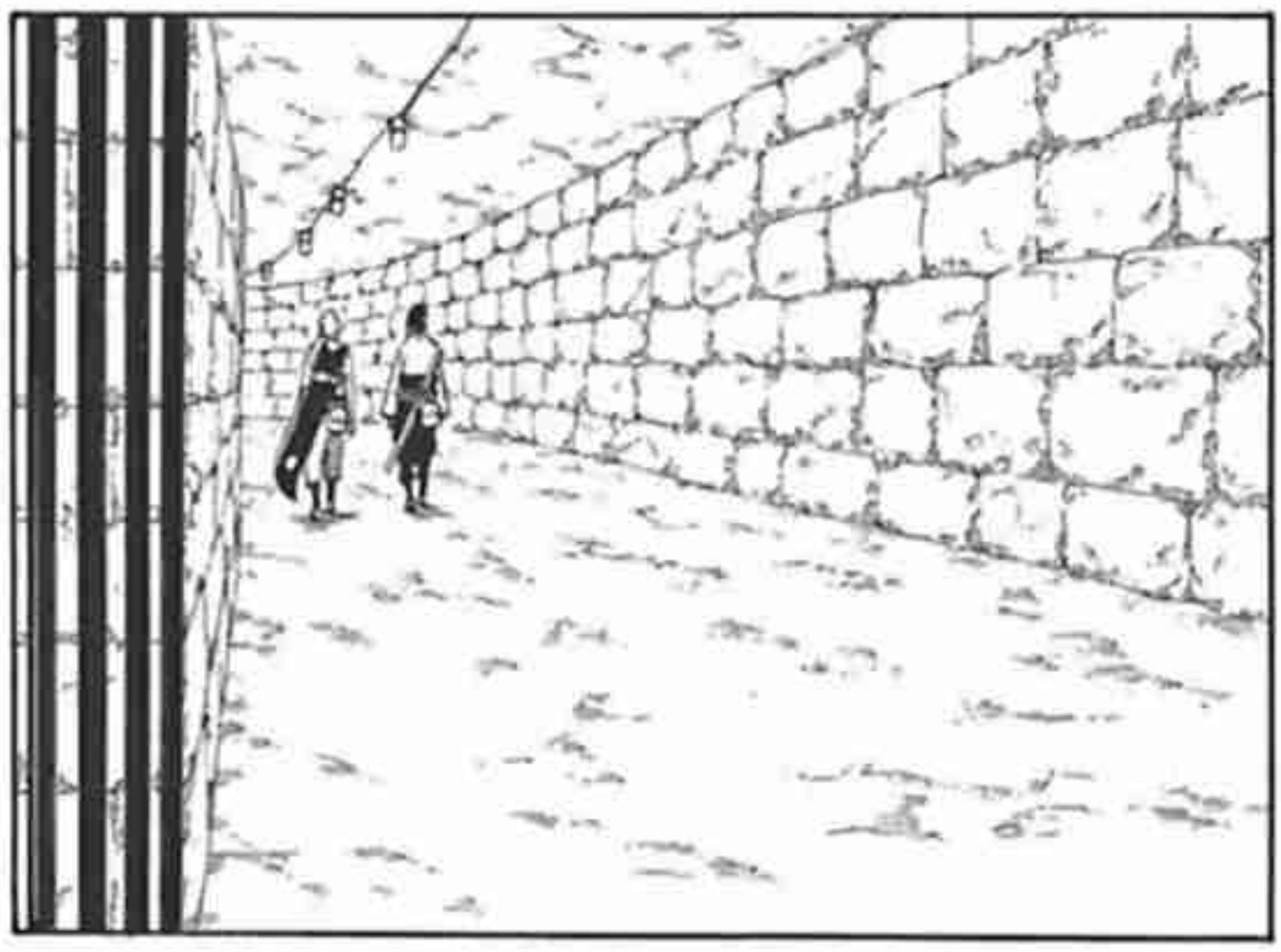

SHE IRRITATES ME.
SHE USED ME FOR EXPERI-MENTS.

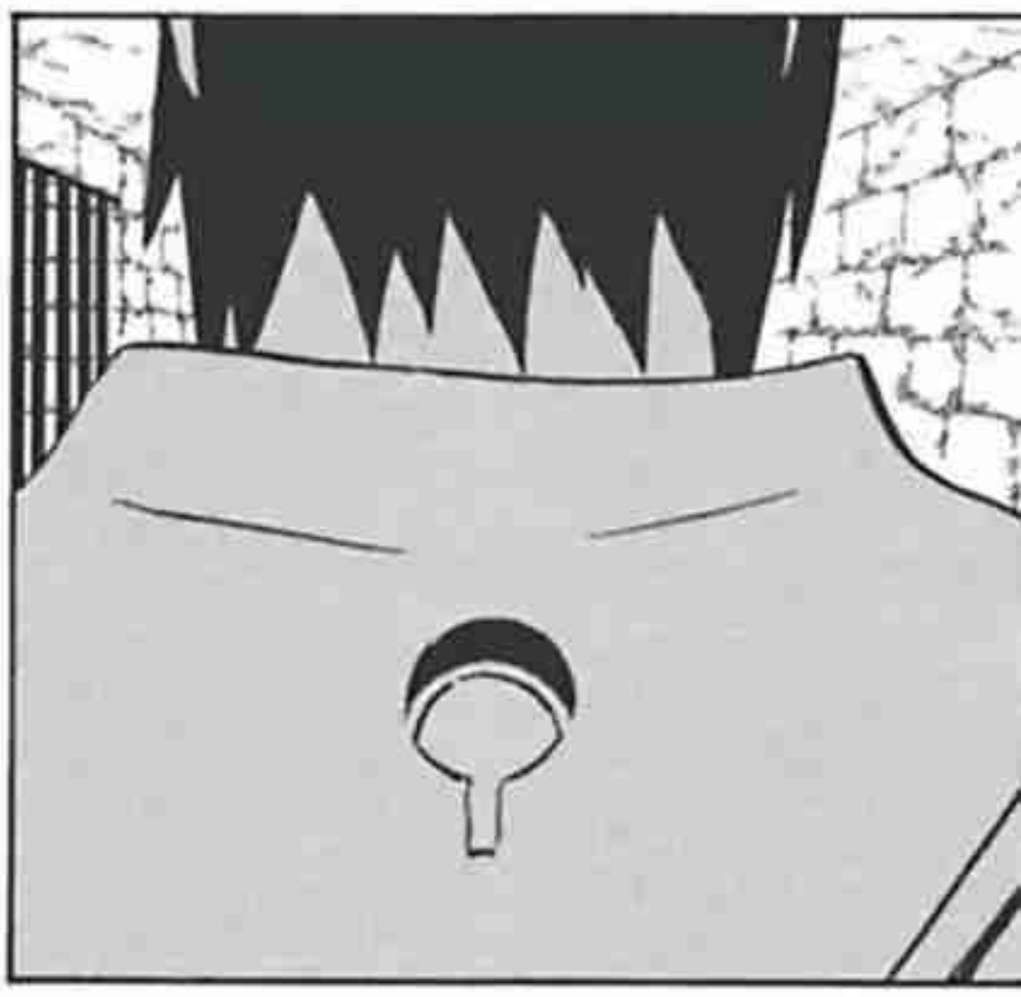
SH SHOOSH
TRUE... I CAN'T DENY THAT.

BUT SHE HAS A SPECIAL ABILITY ...
ONE THAT NO ONE ELSE POS-SESSES.
SURE. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER SHINOBI JUST AS STRONG YET FAR EASIER TO HANDLE.

SHK
SHK

!





READ THIS WAY
WAIT... SASUKE... HERE ALONE ...WITHOUT OROCHI-MARU?
MAYBE IT WASN'T JUST A RUMOR?
WHY IS HE HERE?
ISN'T THAT... UCHIHA SASUKE?
OROCHI-MARU CAN'T BE DEFEATED.
LISTEN TO YOUR-SELF. DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
HE KILLED OROCHI-MARU!
IT MUST BE TRUE!
AND HE'S COME TO SET US FREE!!
!
!

I KNEW IT WAS YOU TWO...

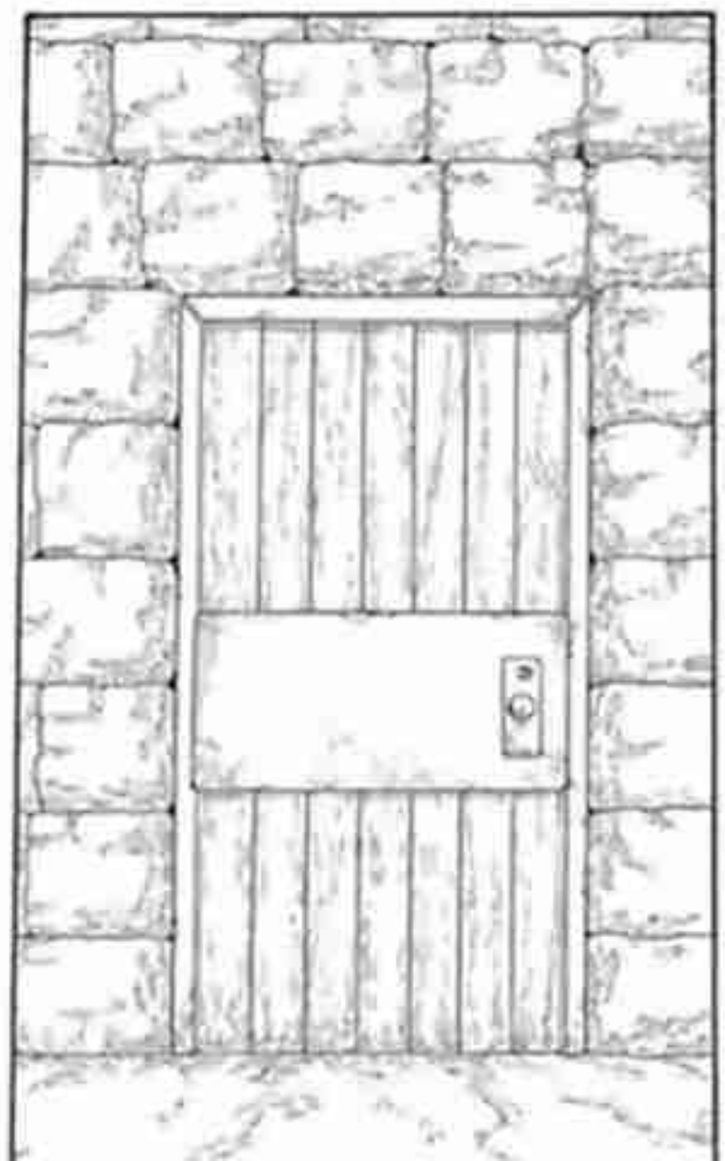
HEY, WHAT AM I, A HUNK OF MEAT?
ALL RIGHT... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SO IT WASN'T JUST A RUMOR, WAS IT.
SASUKE. WITHOUT A CHAPERONE, I SEE.

HMPH ...

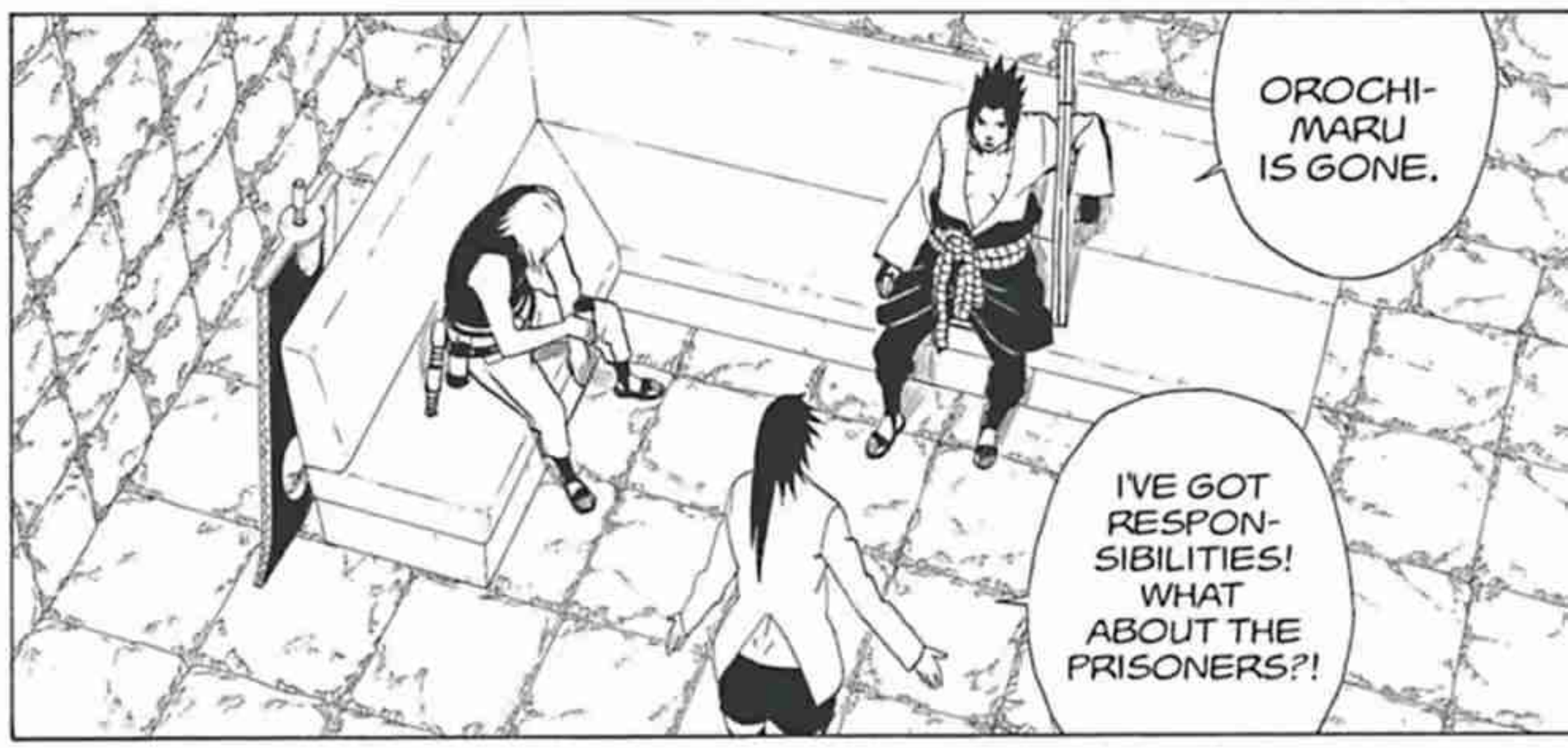
SHOW US TO A ROOM WHERE WE CAN SIT DOWN AND CHAT. I'M BUSHED. NOT USED TO WALKING SO FAR.
SASUKE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

I NEED YOU.
KARIN, JOIN ME.



WHY ON EARTH SHOULD I? LISTEN, I'M IN CHARGE HERE!

YOU WHAH ?!



WHAT DO YOU SAY?
THERE'S NO MORE NEED FOR A WARDEN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO STICK AROUND.

SST
DON'T YOU DARE!

I HAVE NO REASON TO JOIN YOU!!
I SAY NO THANKS!
...

G-CHAK

IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, I'LL GO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
FINE.

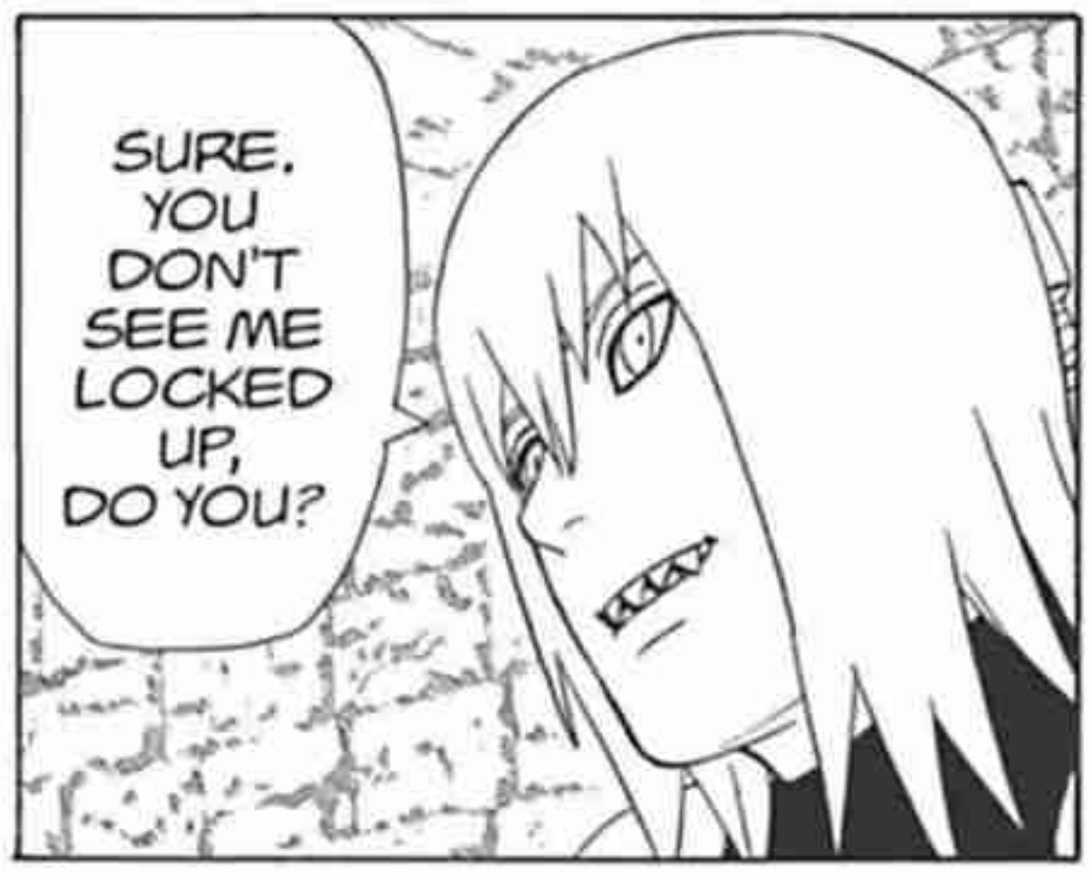
...

UCHIHA SASUKE DID KILL OROCHI-MARU!
YOU GOT IT.

SO...

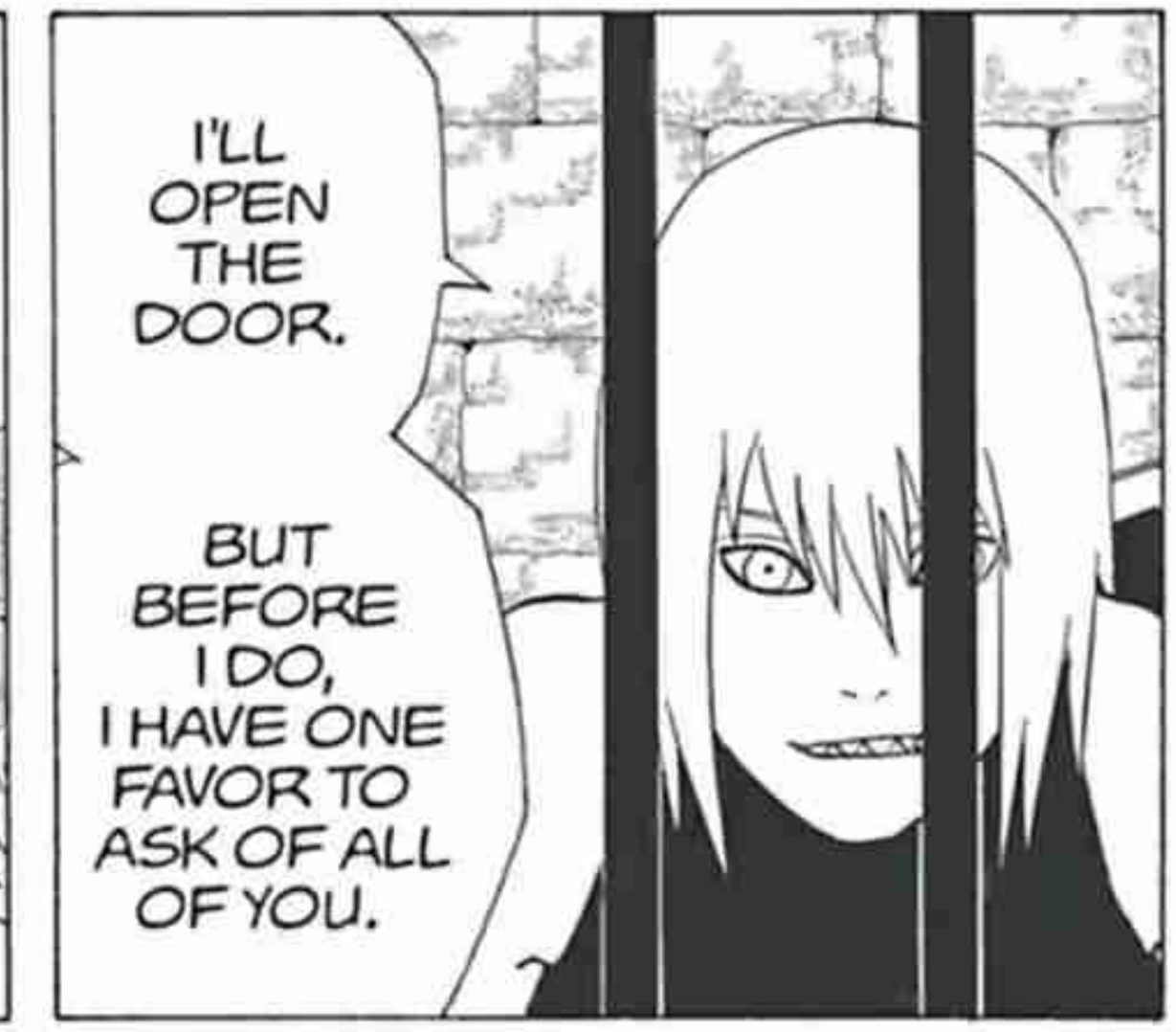
YOU GO FREE, OF COURSE.

THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO US?

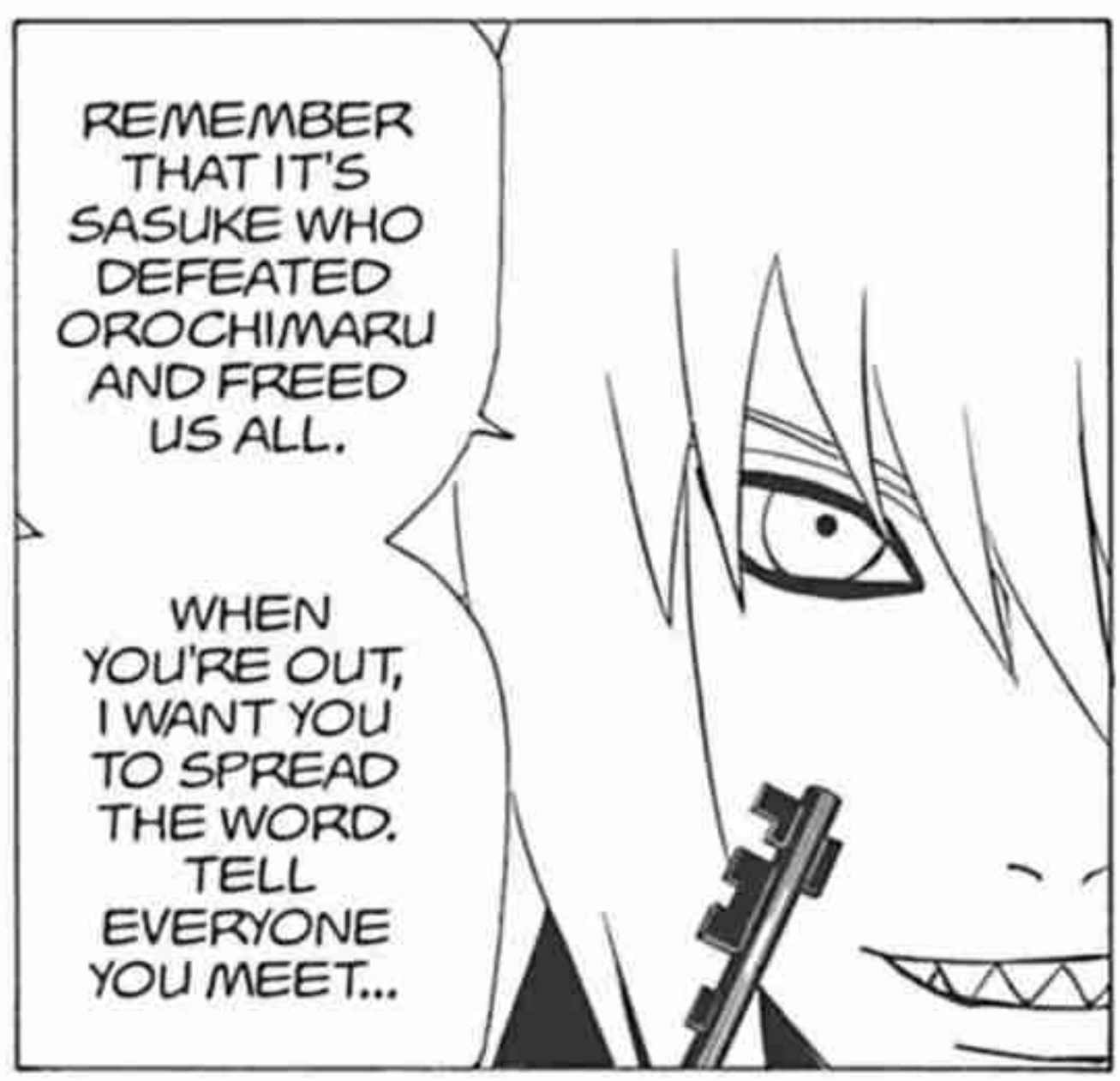

SURE. YOU DON'T SEE ME LOCKED UP, DO YOU?

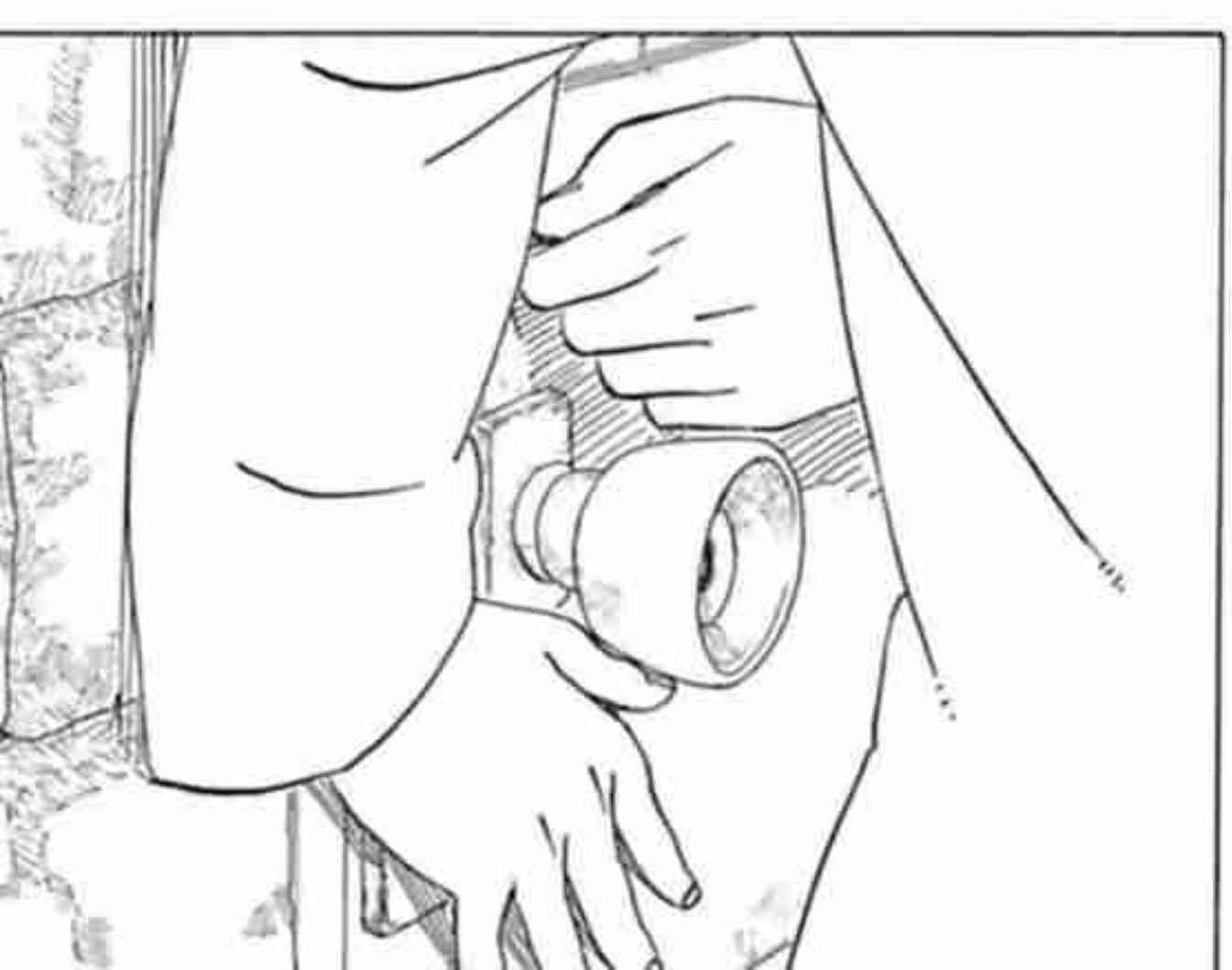
WHAT, YOU MEAN IT?

WE'LL DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!
FINE BY ME!


I'LL OPEN THE DOOR.
BUT BEFORE I DO, I HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK OF ALL OF YOU.

HEE HEE...
"A MAN IS NOW AMONG US WHO WILL BRING STABILITY AND PEACE." YOU GOT THAT?
SHK


REMEMBER THAT IT'S SASUKE WHO DEFEATED OROCHIMARU AND FREED US ALL.
WHEN YOU'RE OUT, I WANT YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD. TELL EVERYONE YOU MEET...



G-CHAK

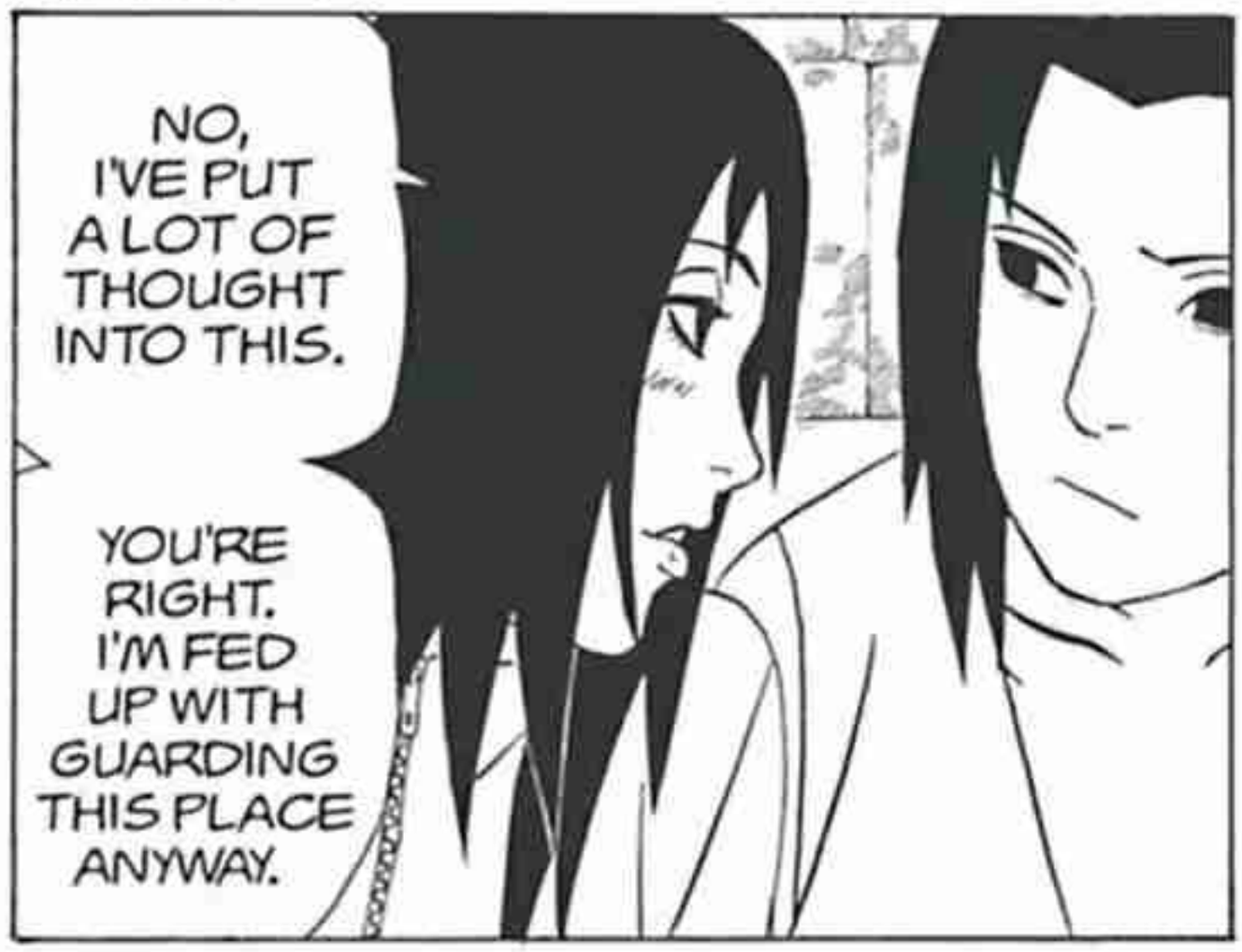
?

Okay, I'll come. ♡

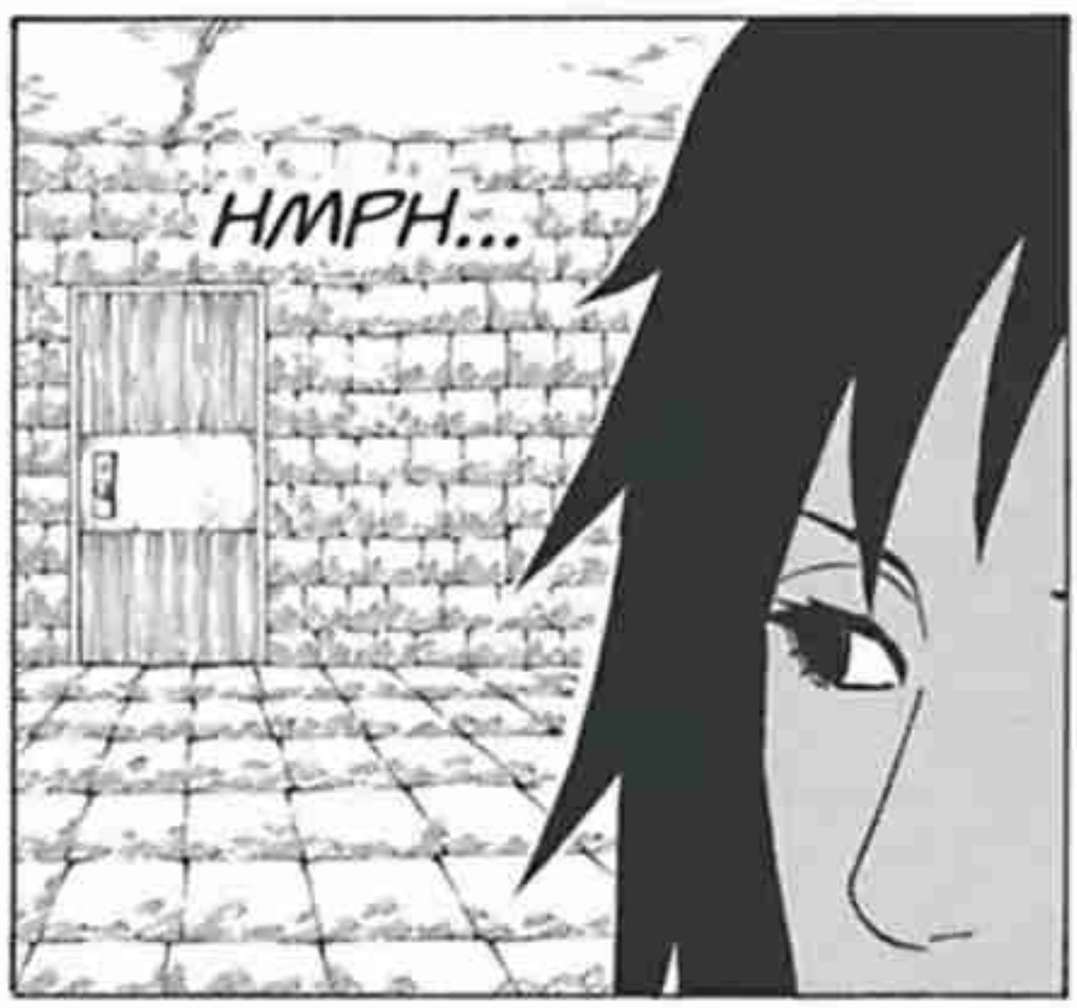
TIK

SSI

IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO, SASUKE...
I WILL FOLLOW YOU.
SSI


NO, I'VE PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M FED UP WITH GUARDING THIS PLACE ANYWAY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS IMPUL-SIVE?


HMPH...

UH-OH ...THAT HELLCAT HAS LOCKED ME OUT...

Suigetsu won't do anything for you... not really.
Listen... Why don't we do this alone? Just the two of us?♡
CREEP
HEY... GET BACK.

!
FSSH

C'MON, SASUKE. LET'S GO.

I TAKE IT KARIN IS STAYING HERE?

I...I JUST HAPPEN TO BE GOING THE SAME WAY... ALONG THE SAME ROAD...

URM...

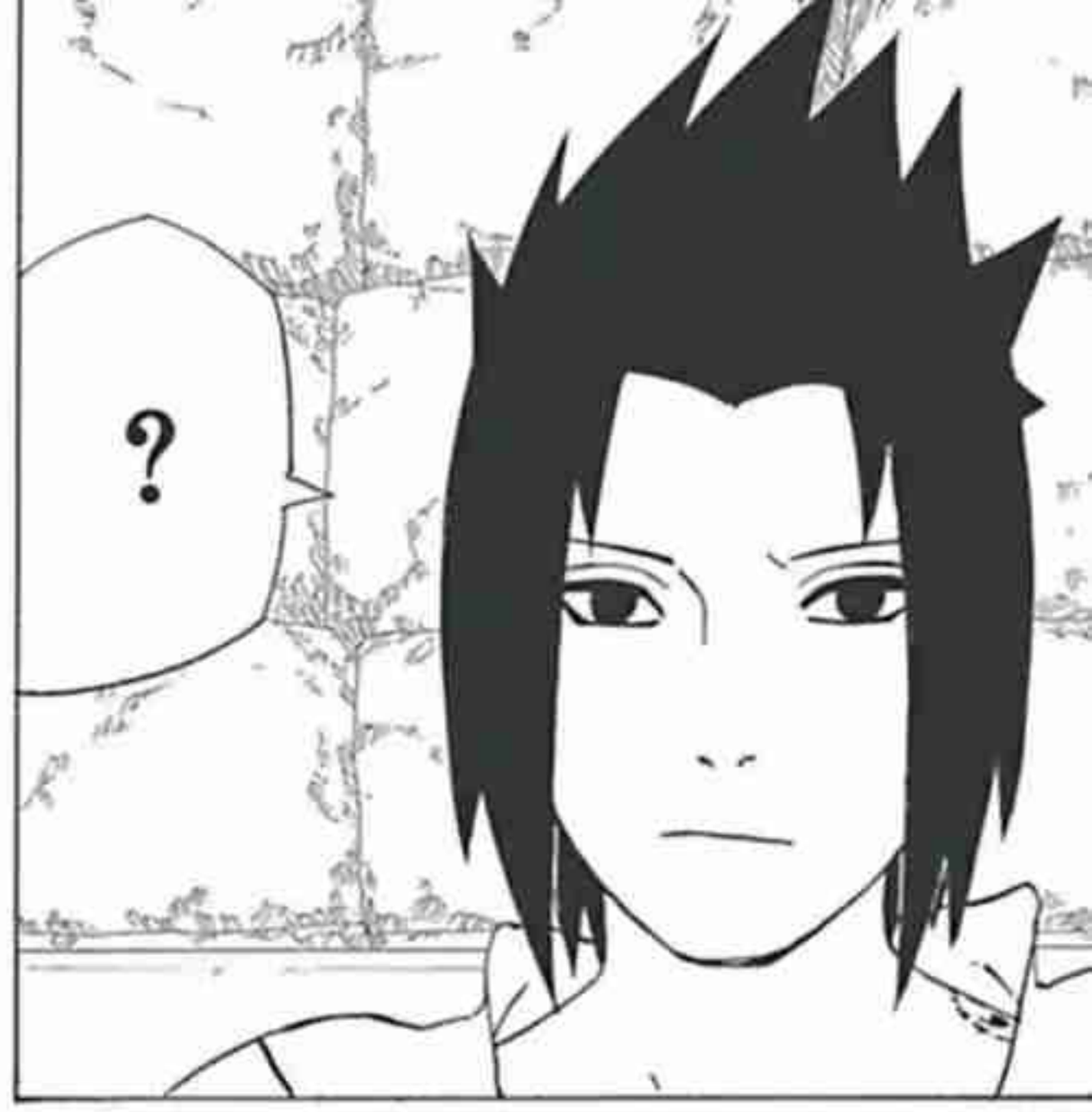
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?!

SHOOP

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S COMING AFTER ALL.

ACTU-ALLY...

OH YEAH? WELL, THAT WORKS OUT OKAY.
WE CAN GO HALFWAY, THEN.


?

NOW... FOR JUGO.

SURE. FINE. HALF-WAY.
SHOVE

WELL... WAIT, YOU WANNA PIECE OF ME?!
DOES IT MATTER? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE JOINING US ANYWAY.
C'MON, THEN!

YOU'RE NOT THROW-ING HIM IN?
WHAAAT? JUGO?!

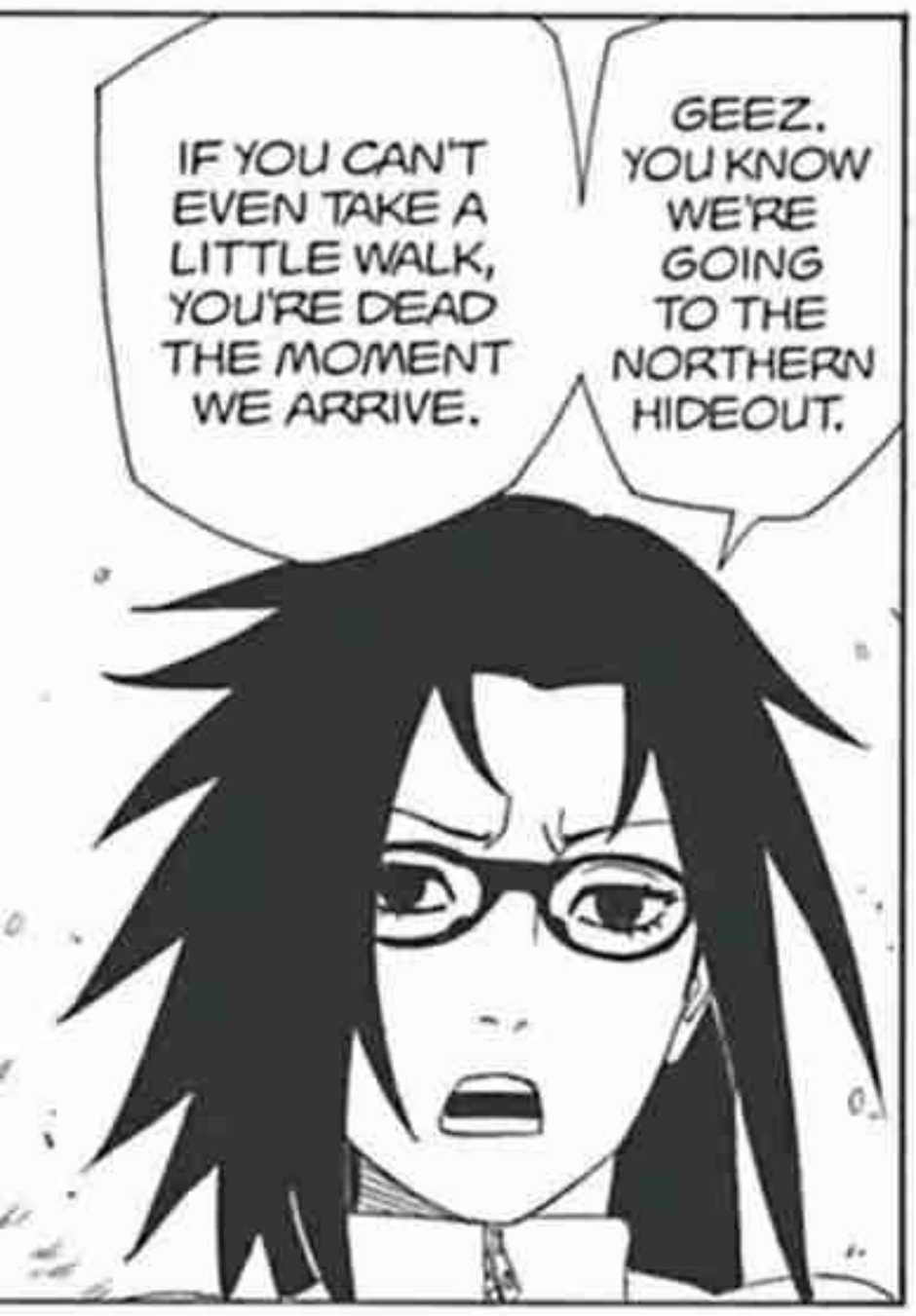
...

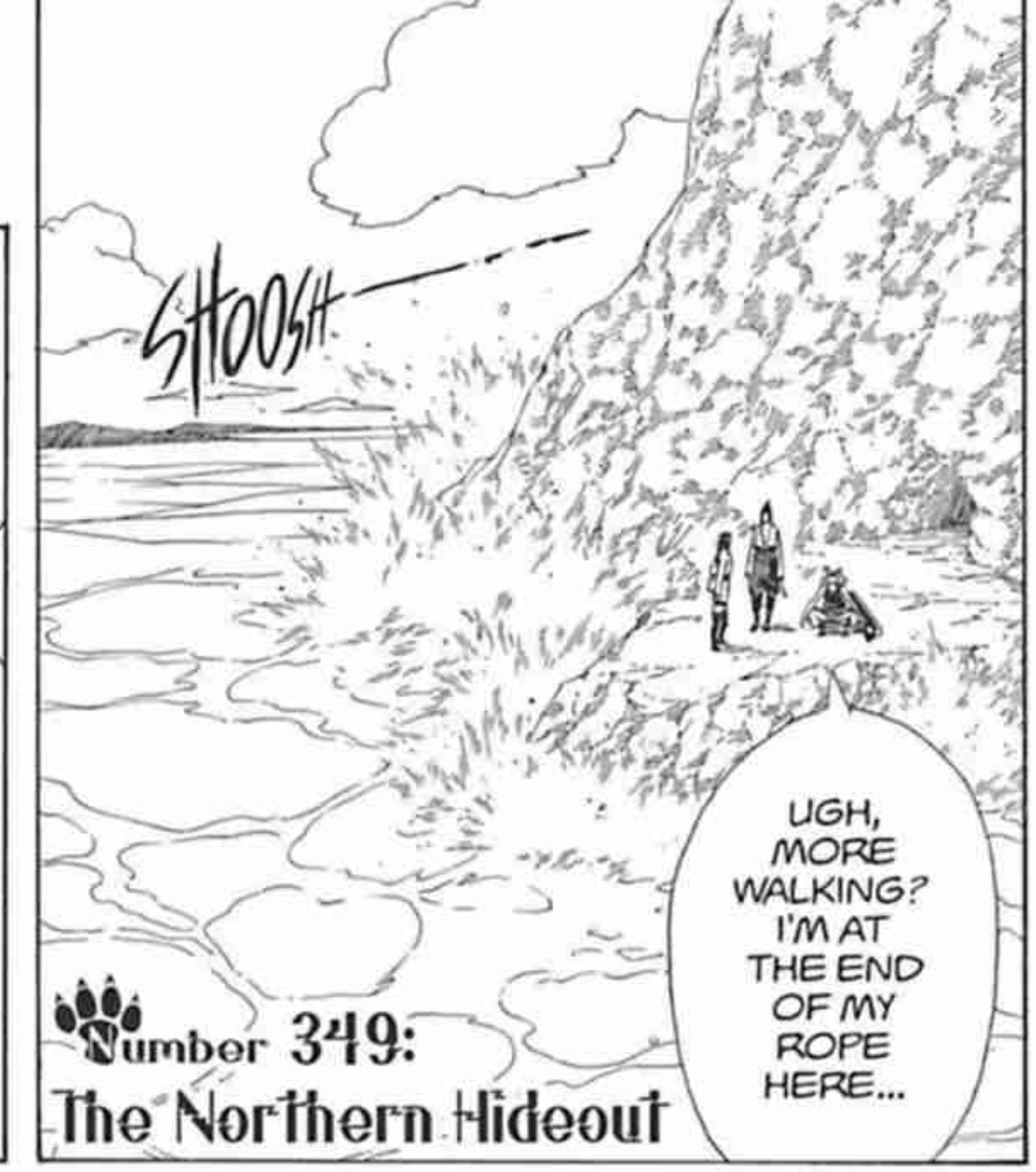
BUT WAIT... WHY NOT A MAN?
YEAH... YEAH, A MAN WILL DO.

NO... A WOMAN.
I PREFER A WOMAN.

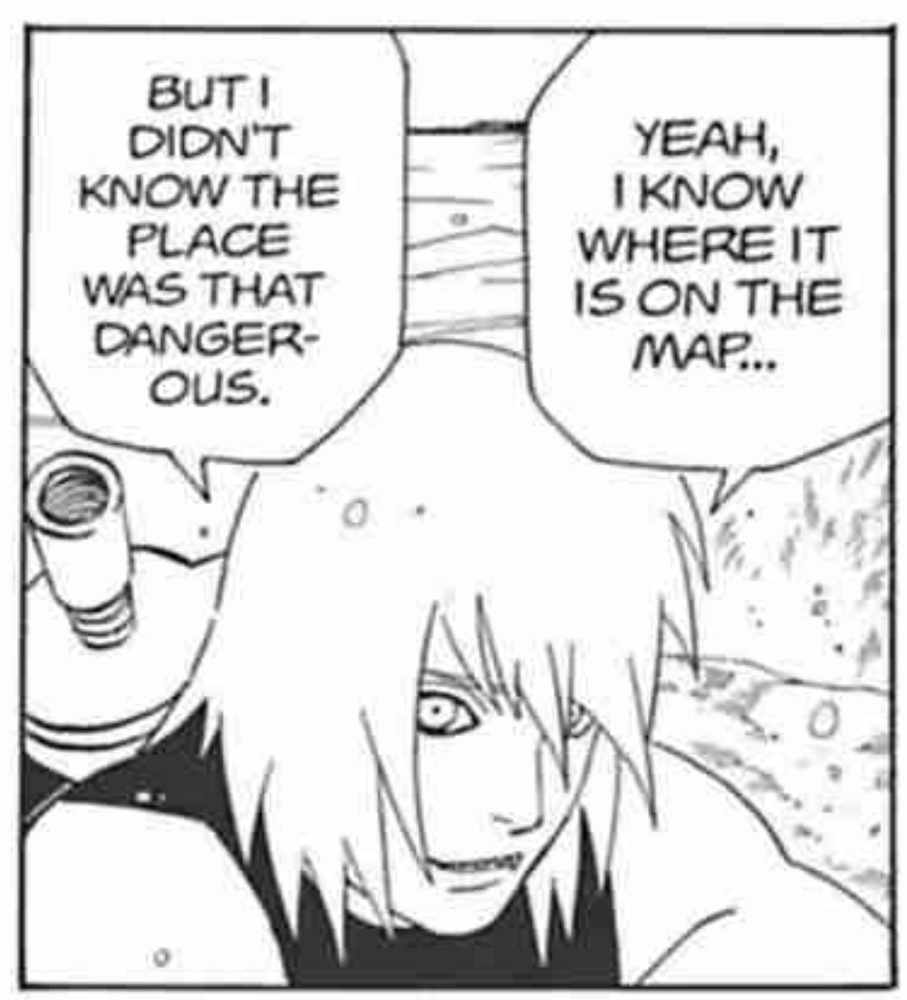
NAH... A MAN'S BETTER...
NO... A WOMAN... GOTTA BE A WOMAN...

NARUTO



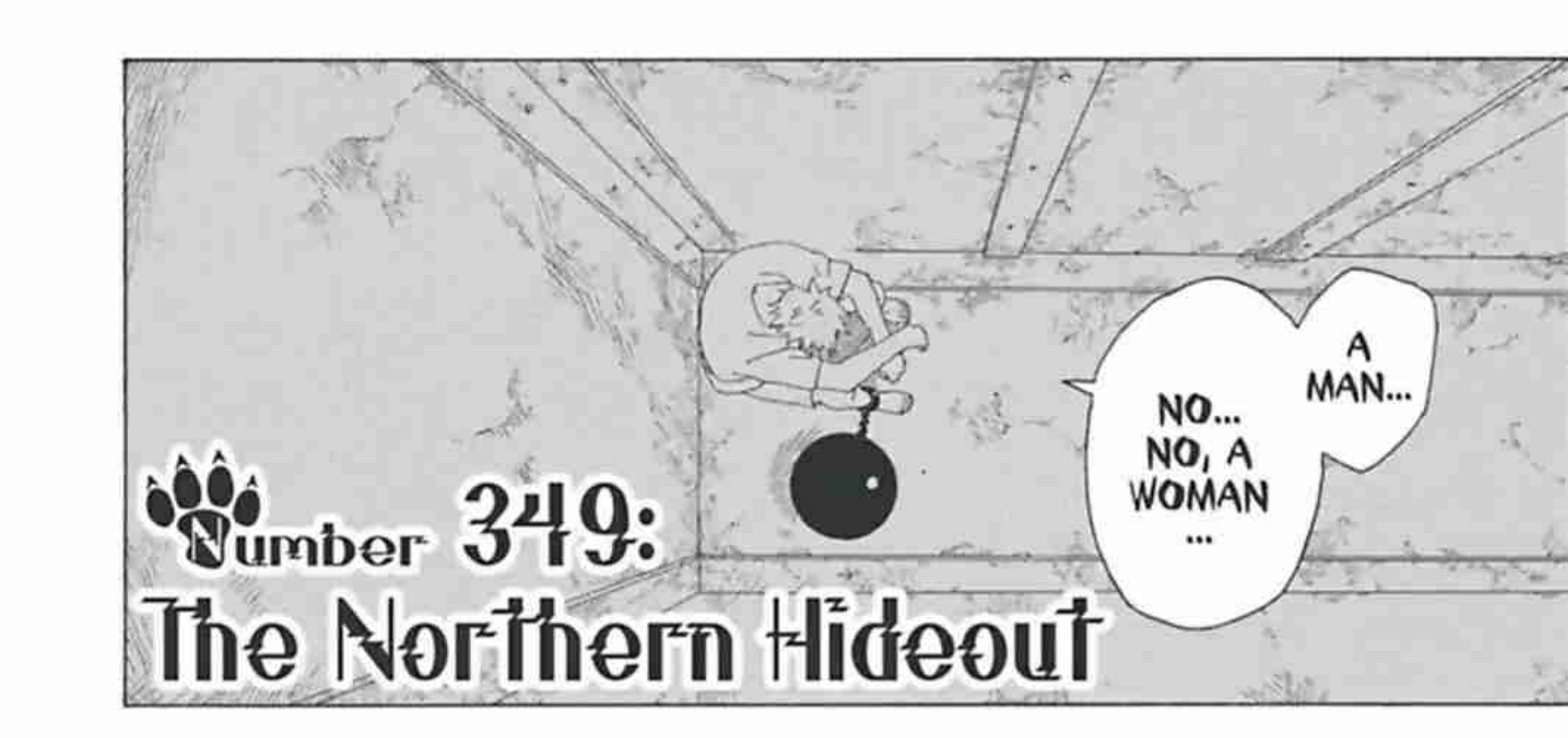


Number 349: The Northern Hideout

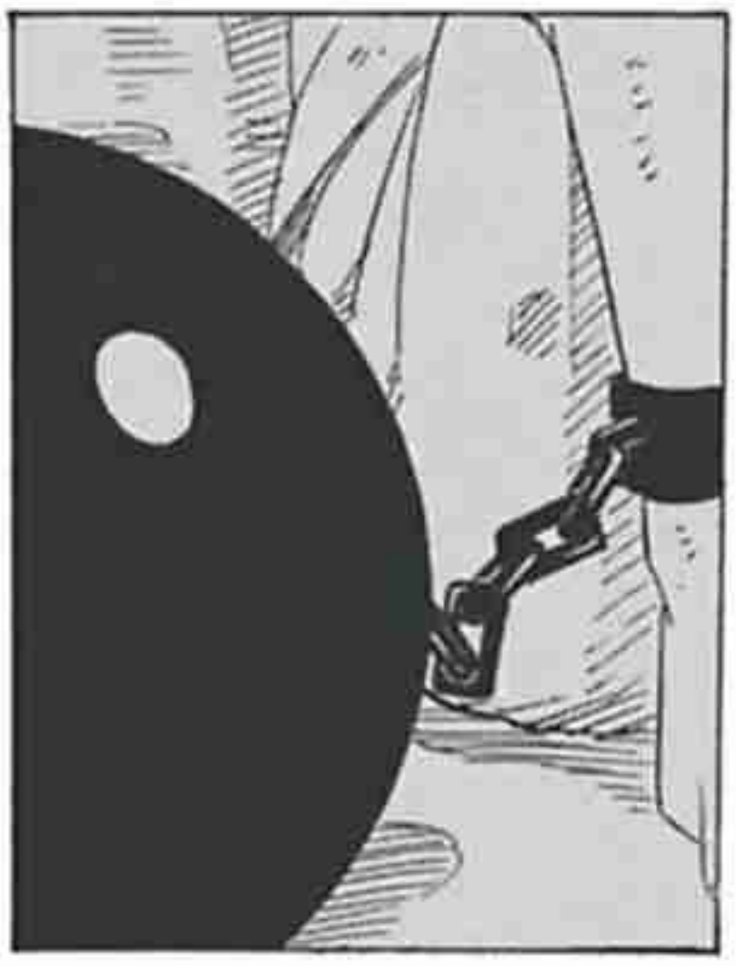


IT'S FULL OF ALL THE MONSTERS THEY PRODUCE THERE.

...HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION.

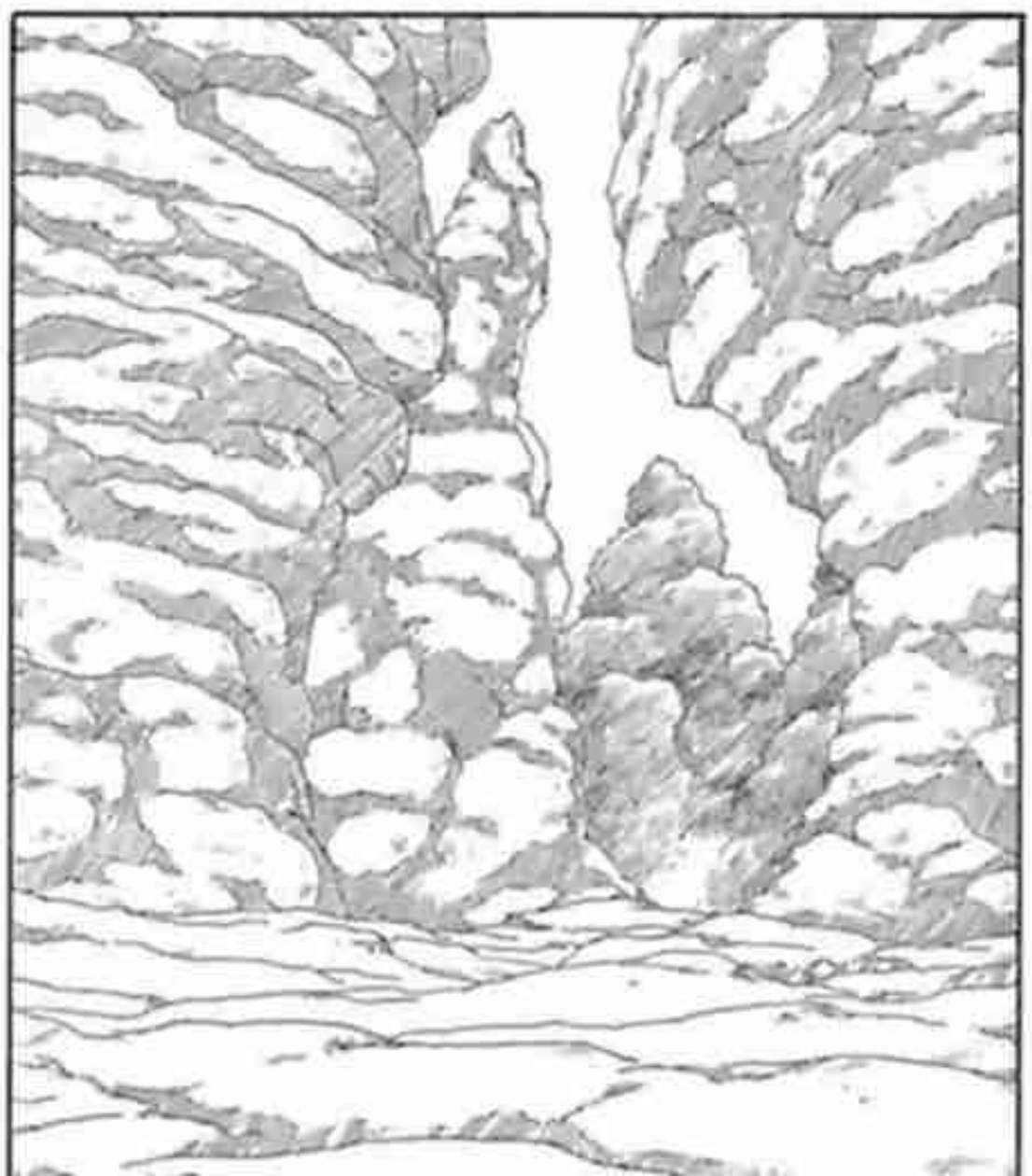


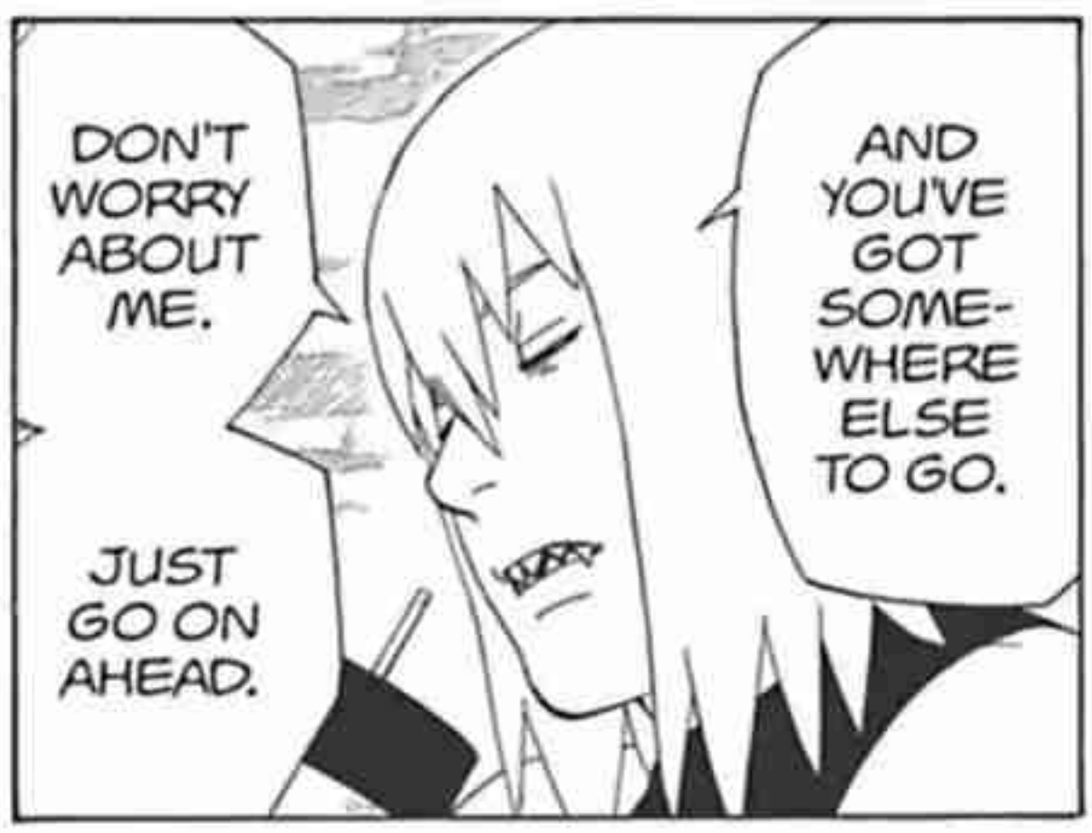
Number 349: The Northern Hideout



...WILL BE A MAN... YEAH...

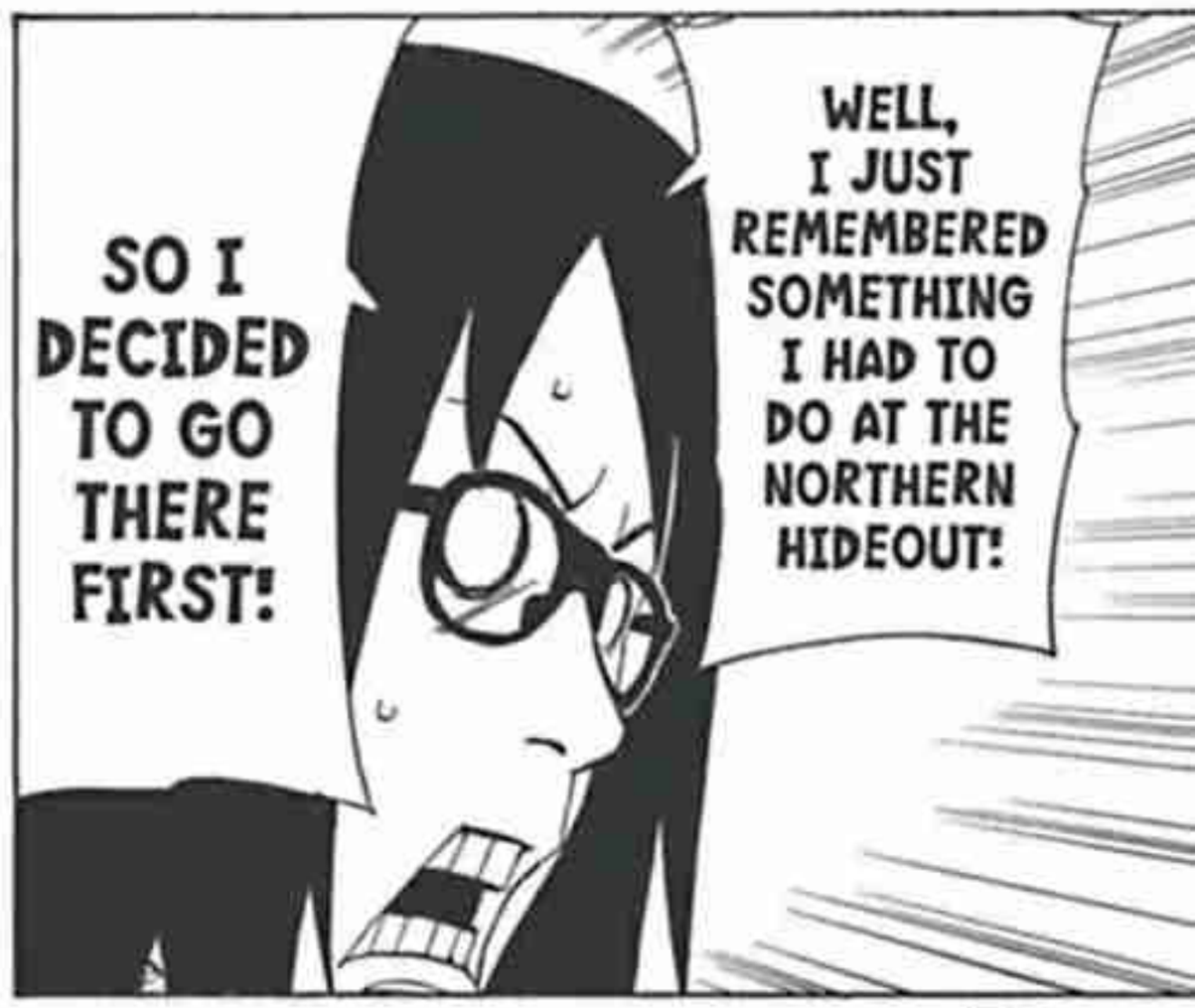
MY NEXT VICTIM...




DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
JUST GO ON AHEAD.
AND YOU'VE GOT SOME-WHERE ELSE TO GO.

THE NORTHERN HIDEOUT IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF!
HOW PATHETIC ARE YOU?!

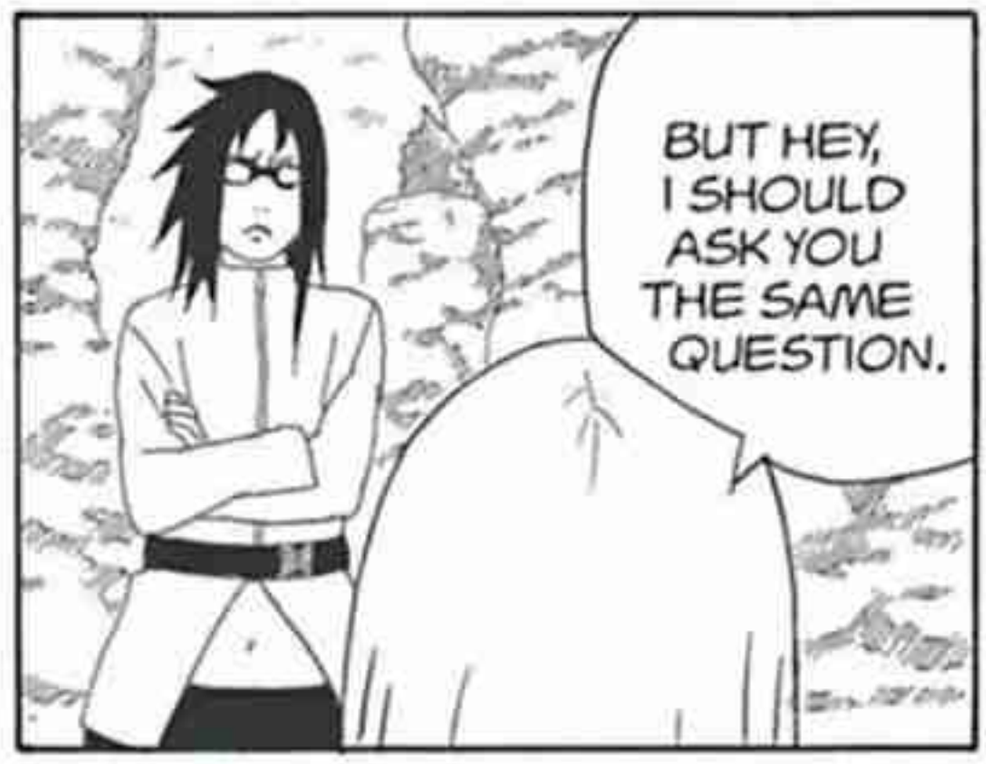
OH BOY...

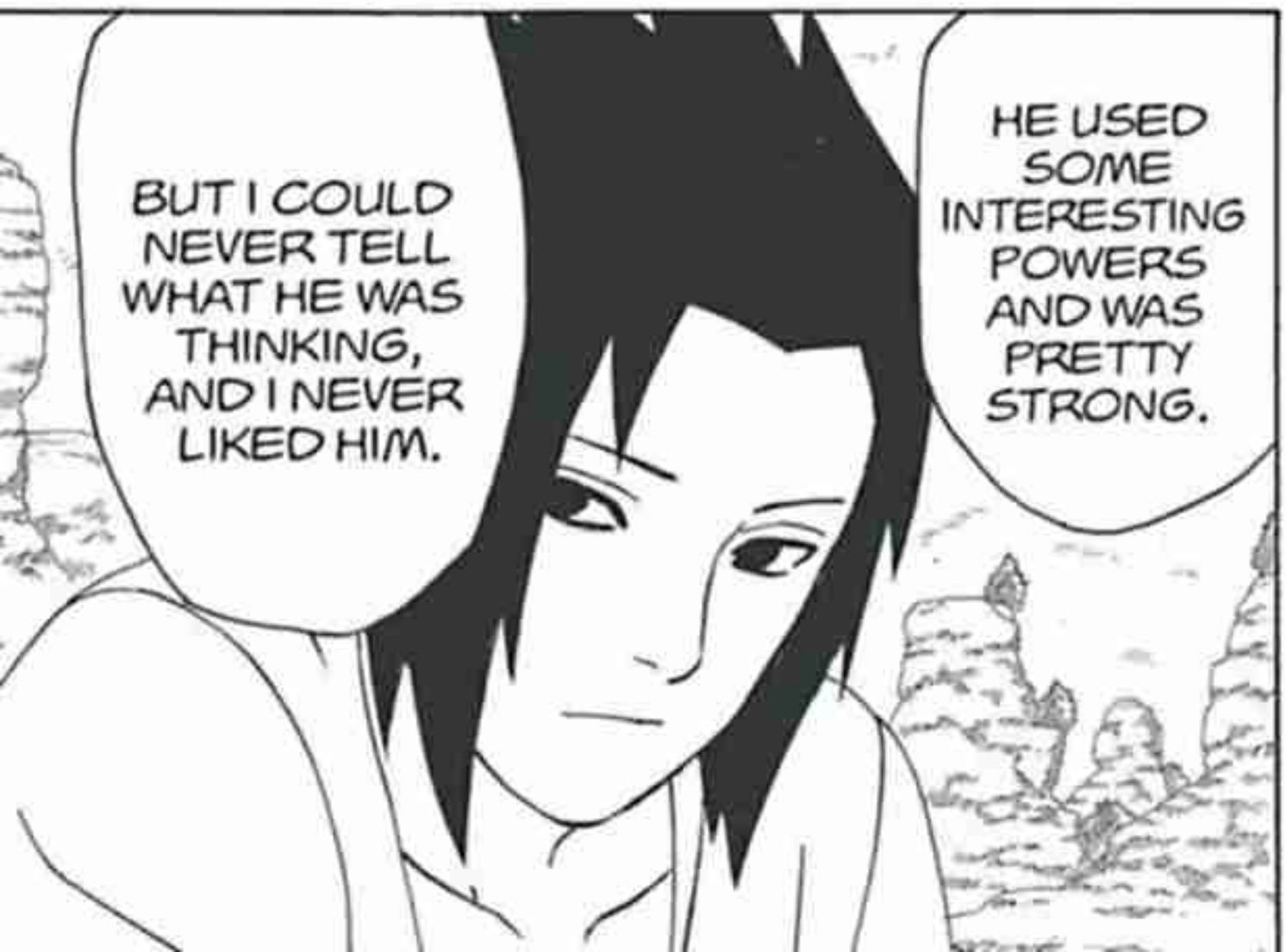

SO I DECIDED TO GO THERE FIRST!
WELL, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAD TO DO AT THE NORTHERN HIDEOUT!

SUIGETSU ...WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND WITH SASUKE?
...

YOU COULD SAY IT'S A MUTUALLY ADVAN-TAGEOUS RELATION-SHIP.
I'VE GOT MY OWN REASONS.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT JUGO'S LIKE. DO YOU REALLY HOPE TO RECRUIT HIM?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE AFTER.


BUT HEY, I SHOULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.


BUT I COULD NEVER TELL WHAT HE WAS THINKING, AND I NEVER LIKED HIM.
HE USED SOME INTERESTING POWERS AND WAS PRETTY STRONG.

I WAS FORCED TO FIGHT HIM ONCE.
I KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT HIM.

HE'S A LITTLE BIT DEMENTED.

RUMOR HAS IT HE CAME TO OROCHIMARU OF HIS OWN WILL...

BEATS ME. DIDN'T STRIKE ME AS ALL THAT BRIGHT.

DO YOU KNOW WHY HE CAME TO OROCHI-MARU?

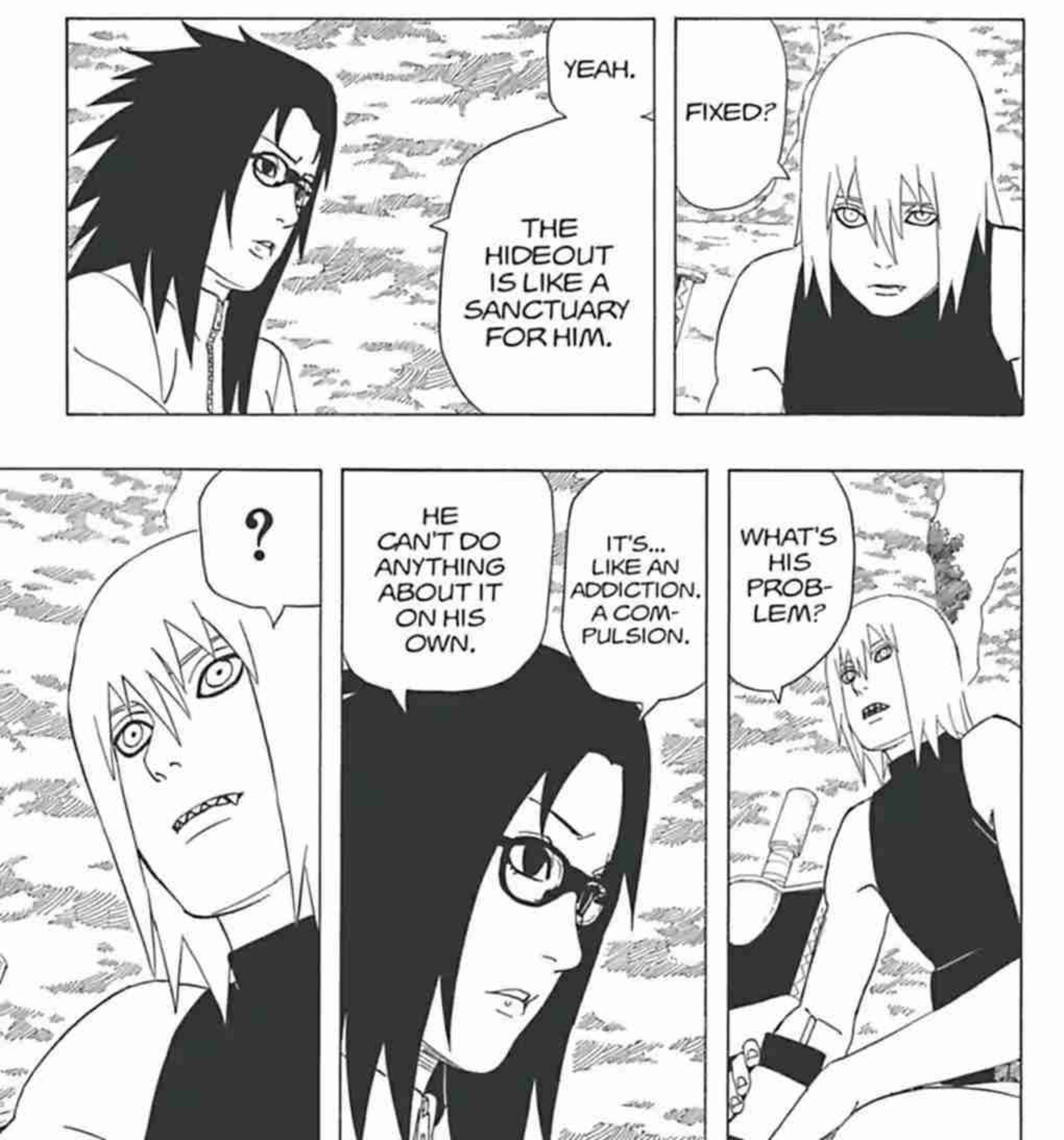
...

SO WHY DID HE?

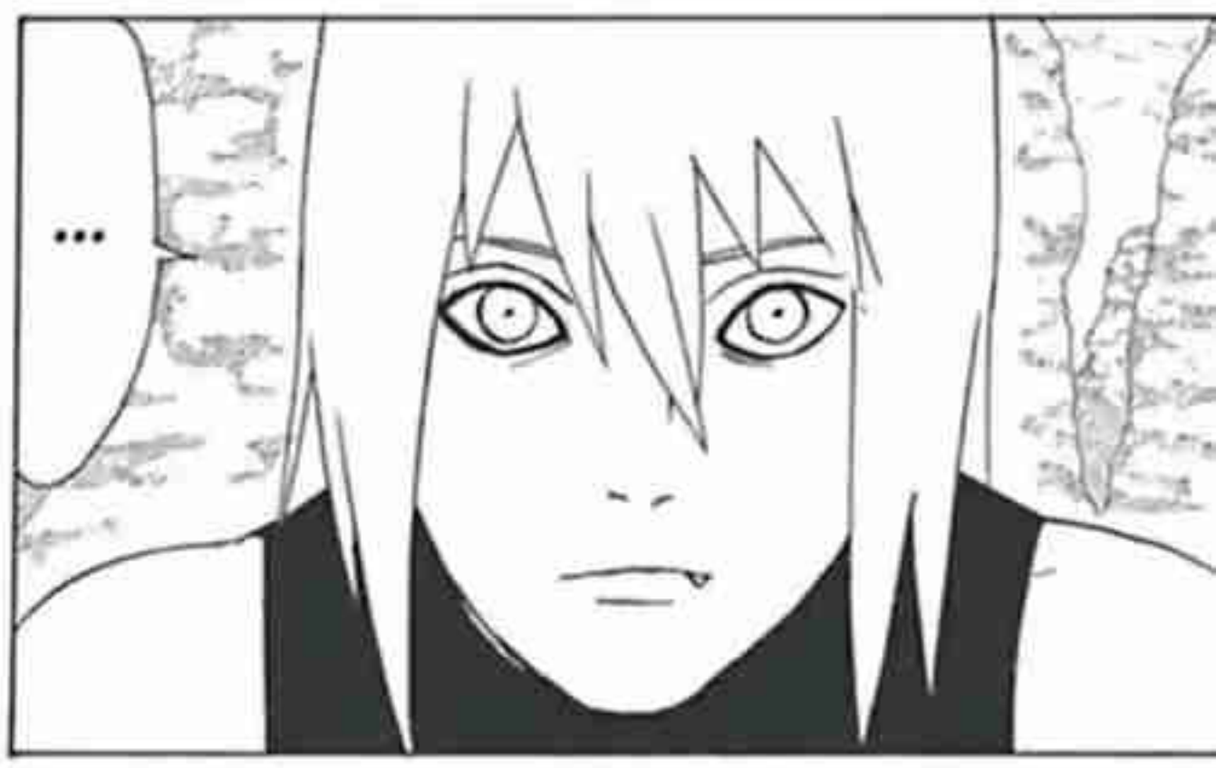
...?

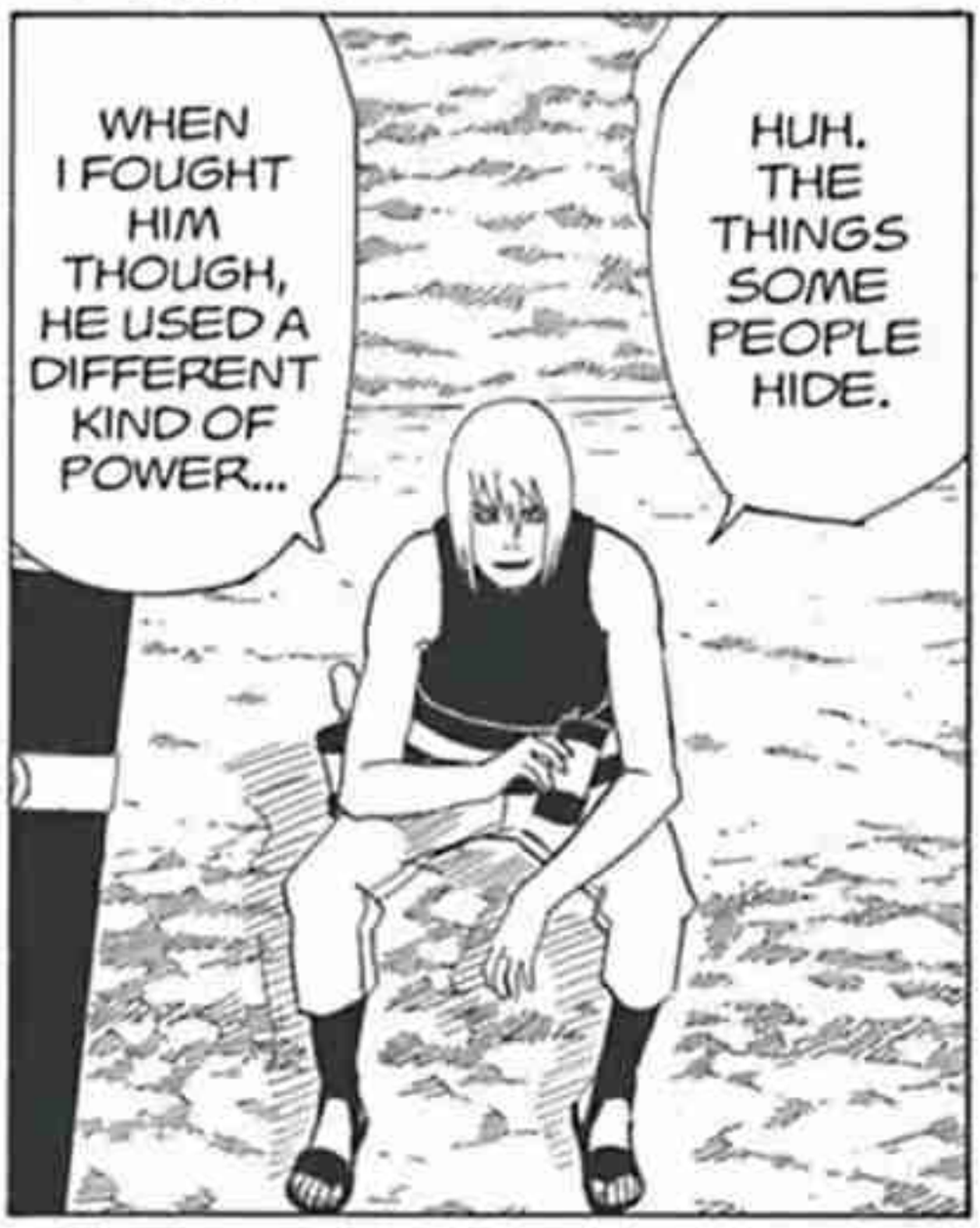
...

TO BE FIXED.


YEAH.
THE HIDEOUT IS LIKE A SANCTUARY FOR HIM.
FIXED?
?
HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT ON HIS OWN.
IT'S... LIKE AN ADDICTION. A COM-PULSION.
WHAT'S HIS PROB-LEM?

HE WANTS TO CONTROL HIS URGE TO SLAUGHTER.




WHEN I FOUGHT HIM THOUGH, HE USED A DIFFERENT KIND OF POWER...
HUH. THE THINGS SOME PEOPLE HIDE.

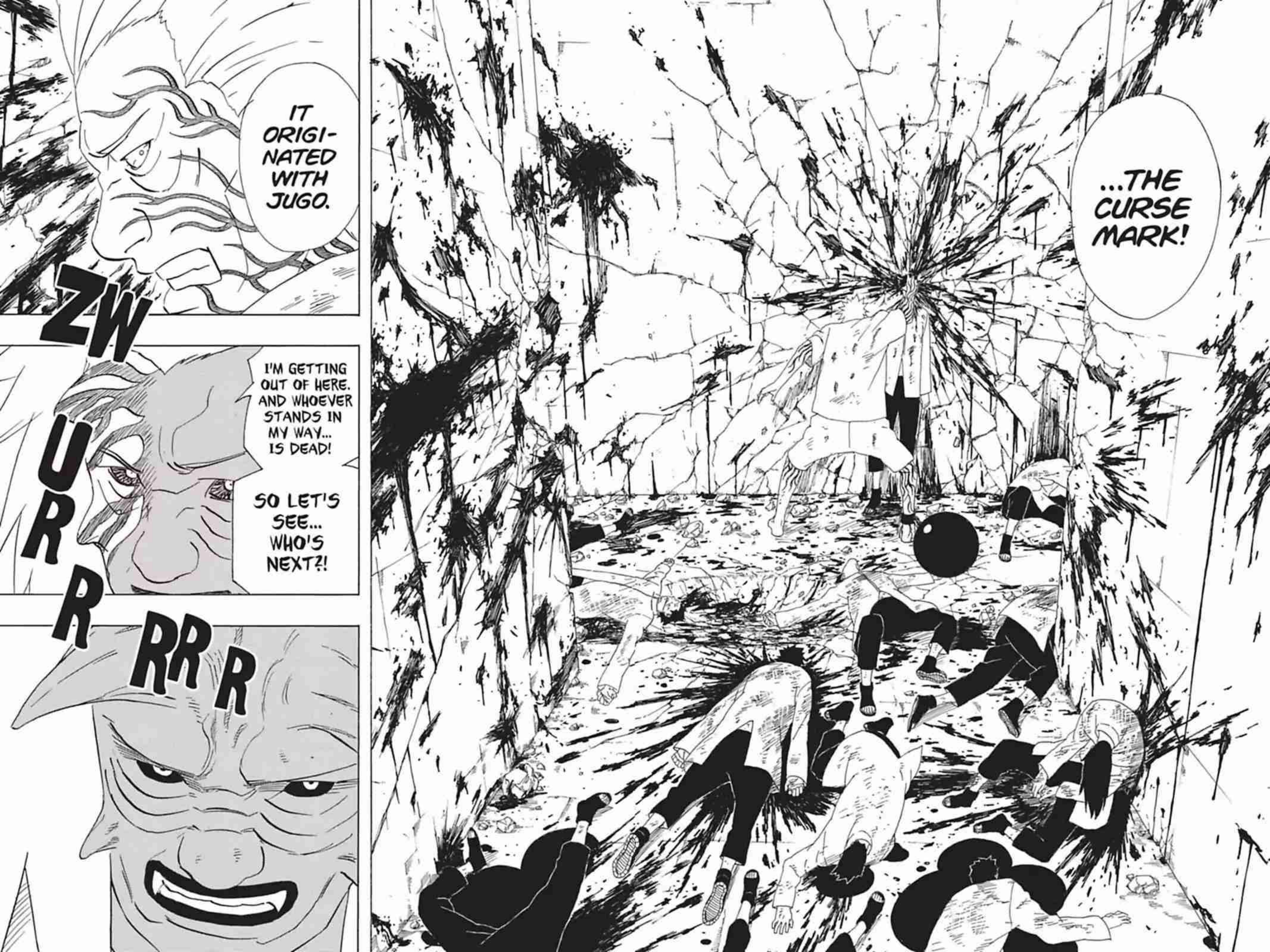
BUT WHEN THEY OVER-COME HIM, HE'S NO LONGER HIMSELF.
HE CAN USUALLY SUPPRESS HIS BIZARRE URGES.
HE TURNS INTO A HORRIBLE, DEMONIC THING. HIS LOOKS CHANGE ALONG WITH HIS PERSON-ALITY.

AND PURIFY THE ENZYME...
WHICH ALLOWED OTHER SHINOBI TO ACHIEVE THE SAME STATE.
OROCHIMARU WAS FASCI-NATED WITH HIS POWER. THAT'S WHAT LED HIM TO EXTRACT A CERTAIN FLUID FROM JUGO'S BODY...

I'M TALK-ING ABOUT ...

...?

I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHERE I'M GOING HERE.


IT ORIGI-NATED WITH JUGO.
ZW
U
R
R
RR R
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE. AND WHOEVER STANDS IN MY WAY... IS DEAD!
SO LET'S SEE... WHO'S NEXT?!
...THE CURSE MARK!

SUIGETSU! WE CAN'T KEEP STOPPING ALL THE TIME! COME ON, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

HEY... HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A BREAK?

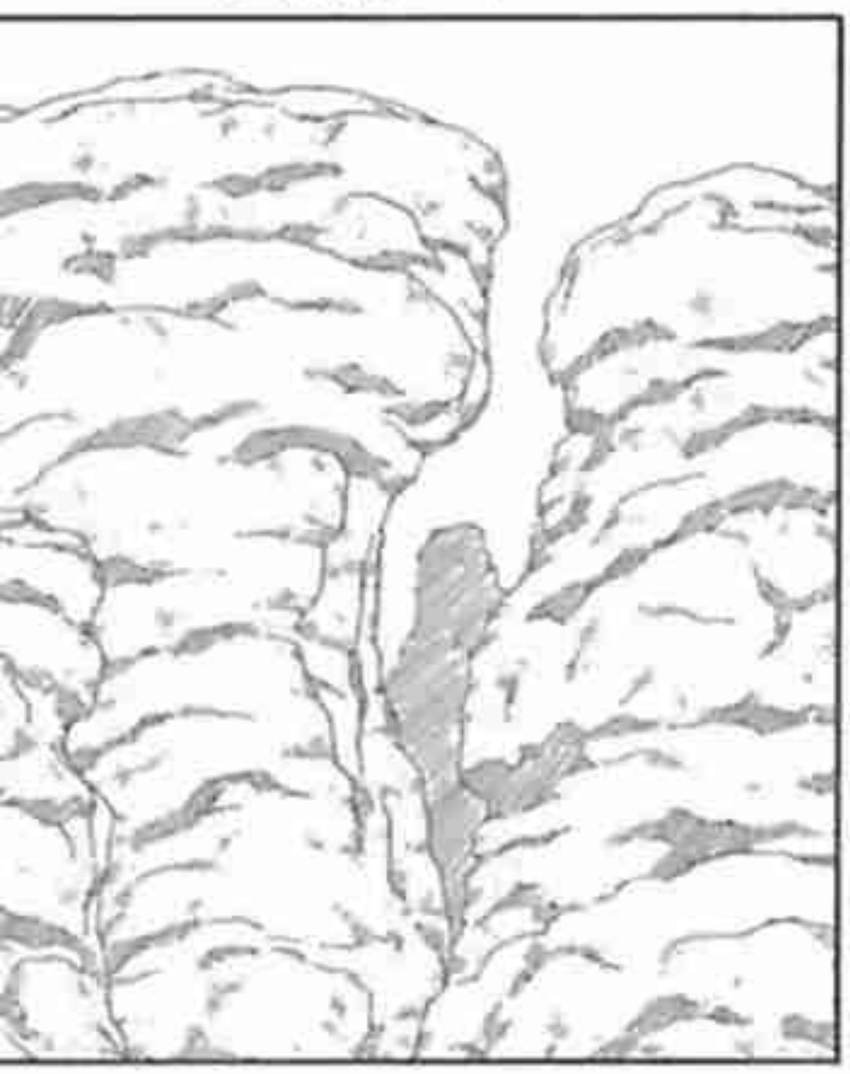
THOMP

?!

HEY...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE IT BEHIND?!

IS IT THAT SWORD? IS IT TOO HEAVY FOR YOU?!



HELP...
A... ARE YOU... UCHIHA SASUKE?
WHAT HAP-PENED?

HE'S FROM THE NORTHERN HIDEOUT.
HE'S STILL ALIVE.

THE PRISONERS... THEY ALL WENT BERSERK...
IT STARTED WITH... A RUMOR THAT... OROCHI-MARU WAS DEAD.

WHY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

SLUMP

AGH...

THE WAY IT'S GOING ...

!

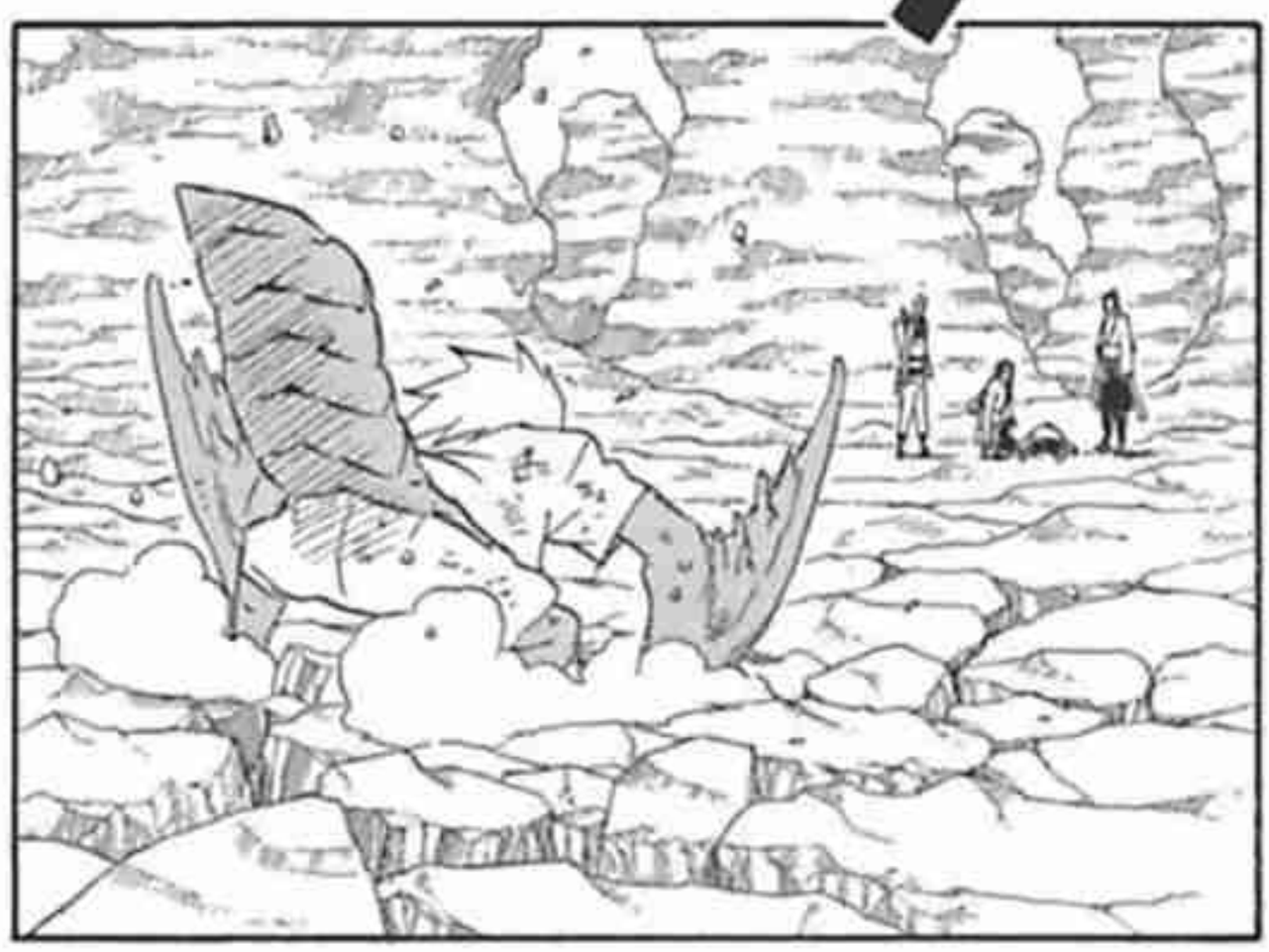
WHOOPS ...GUESS HE'S DEAD...

FUOO

KO

OW

I KNOW YOU...



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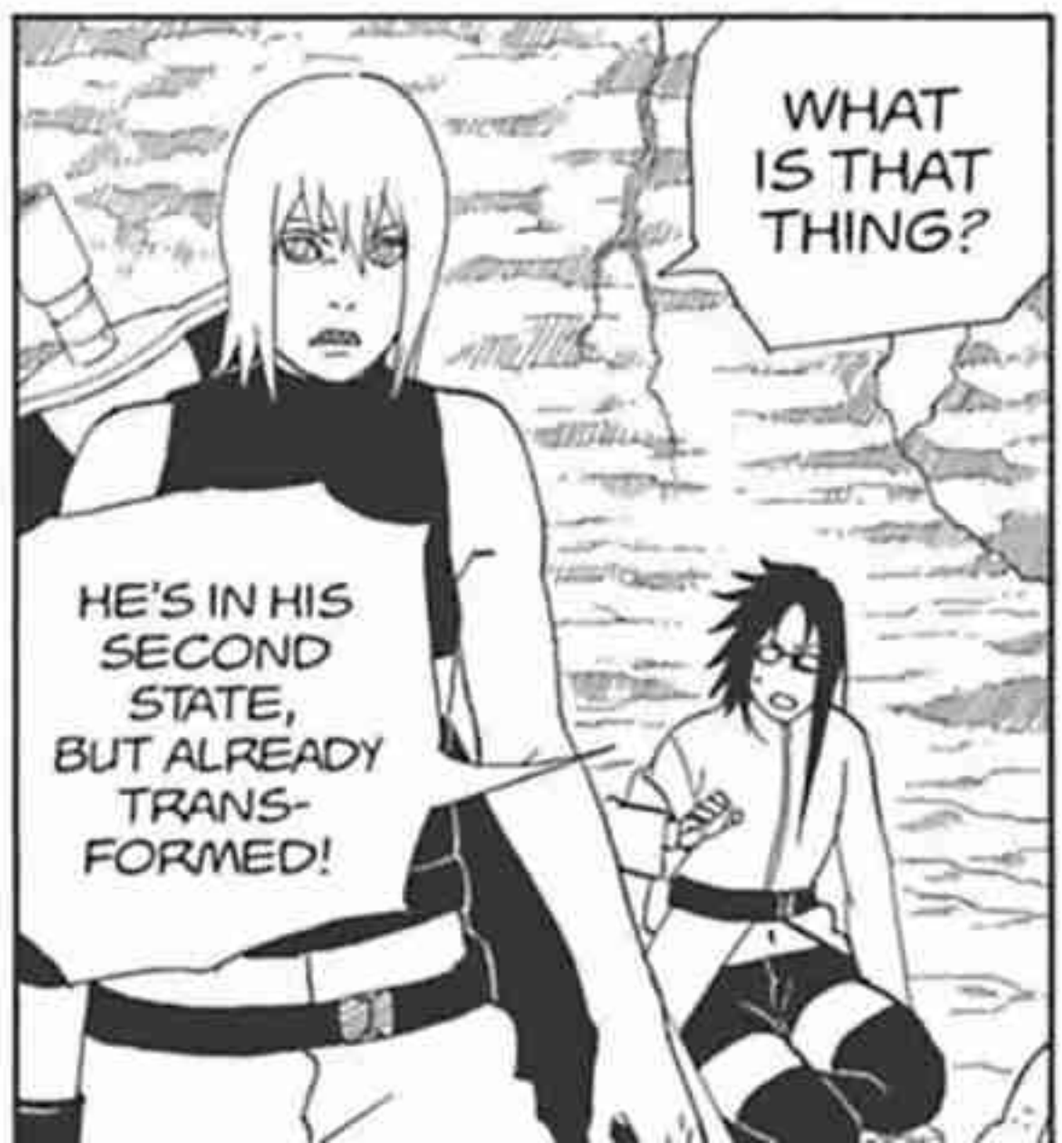
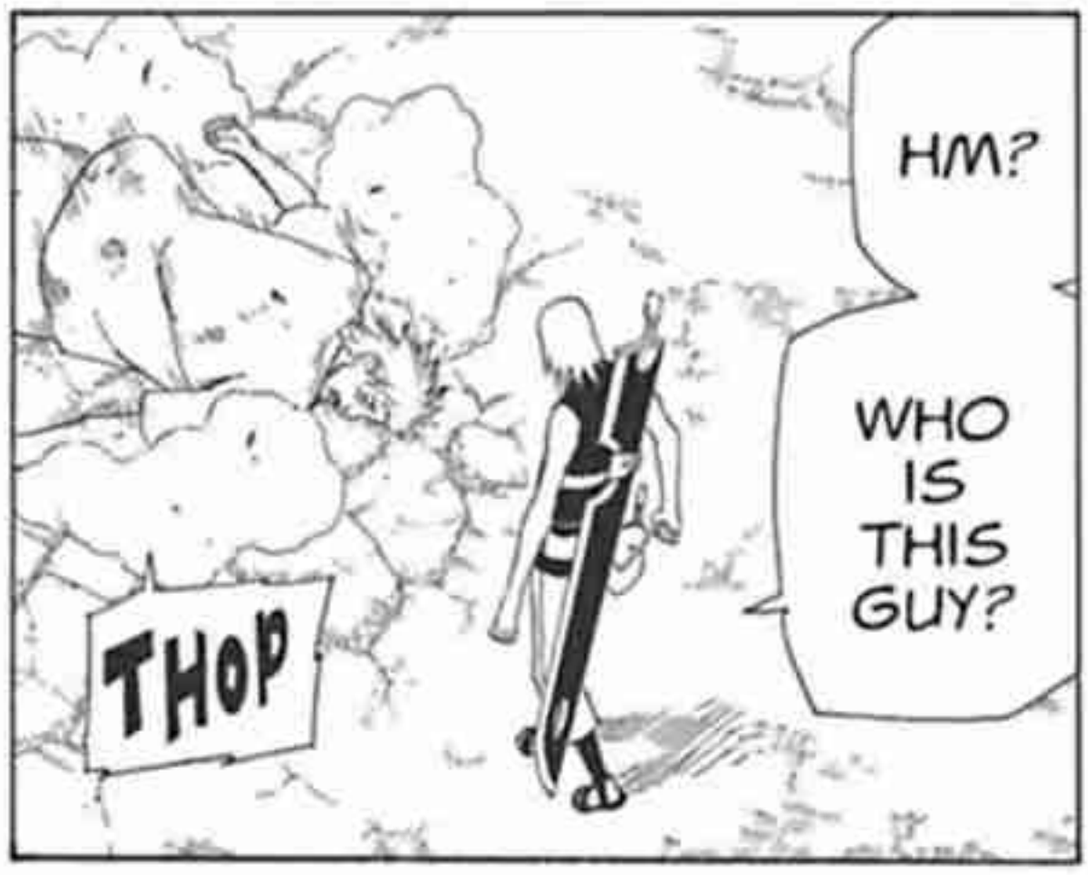
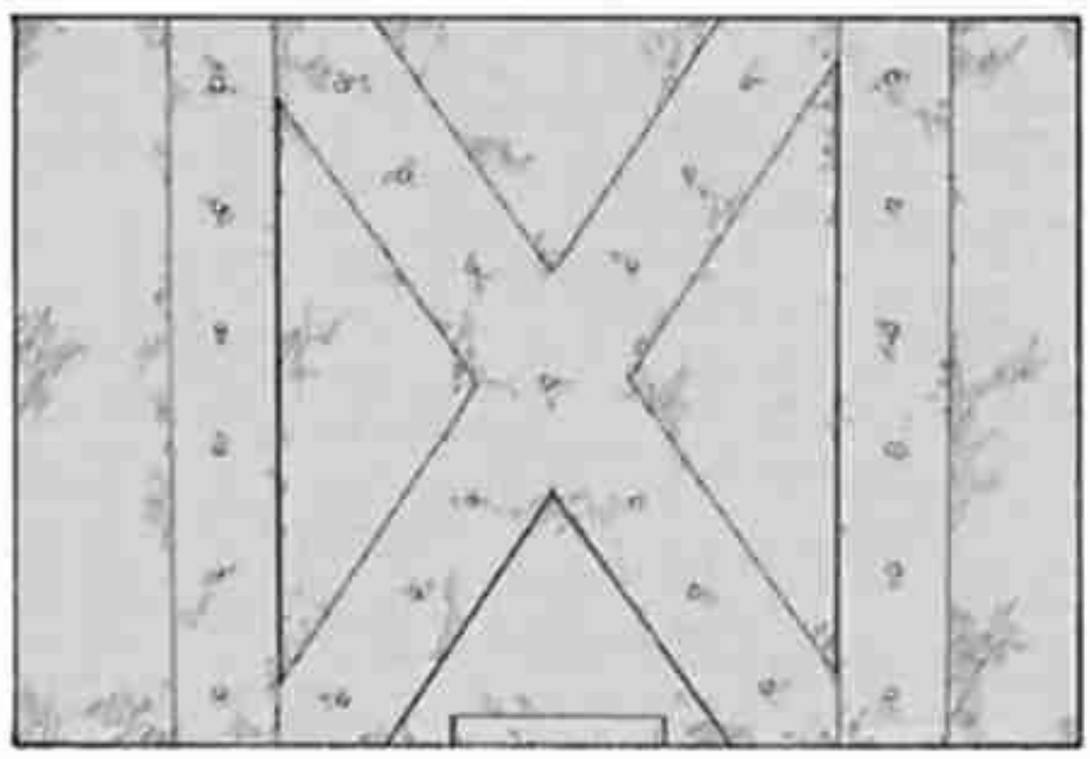
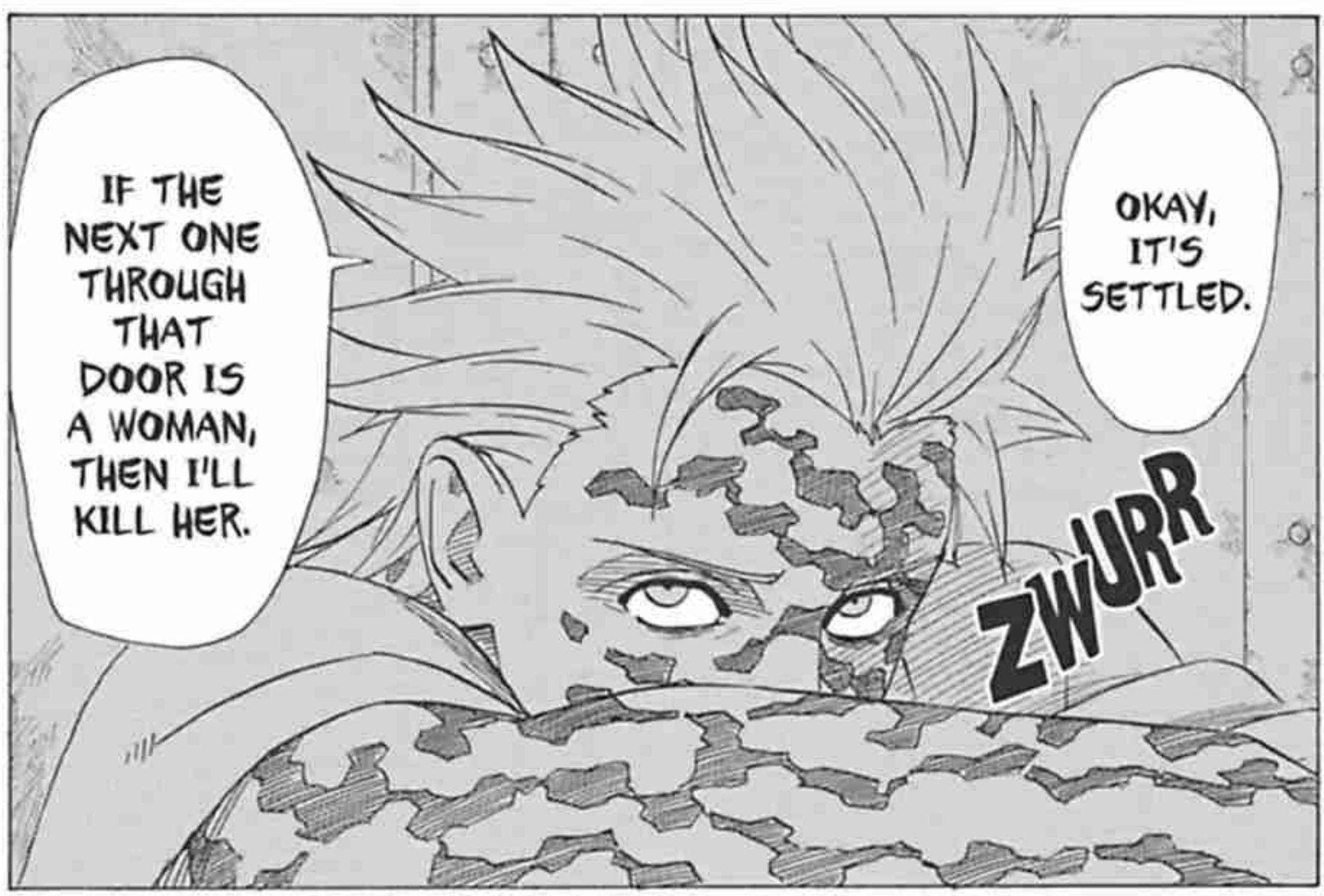

WHAT IS THAT THING?
HE'S IN HIS SECOND STATE, BUT ALREADY TRANS-FORMED!

SHIK







TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 39!